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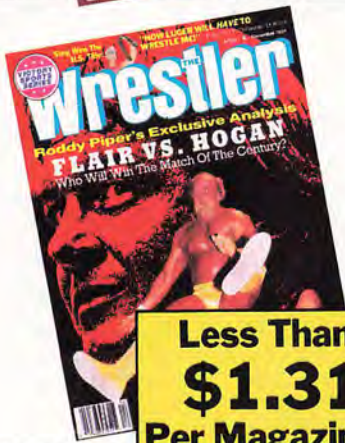


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INSIDE

Wrestling

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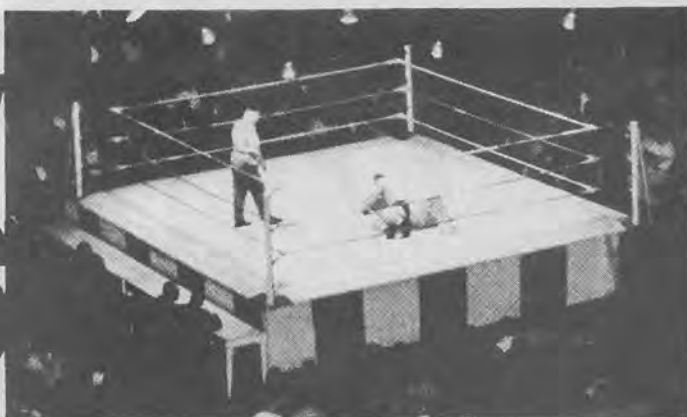
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SINCERELY YOURS

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ROLE REVERSAL

Matt Brock made a very astute observation when he wrote, "While WCW has been turning itself into the WWF, the WWF has slowly been turning itself into the old NWA" ("Plain Speaking," May 1992).

Tune in to TBS, and we see the likes of Rick Rude, Rick Steamboat, Greg Valentine, and Jesse Ventura. Change channels to a WWF broadcast. There's Ric Flair, Sid (Vicious) Justice, The Legion of Road Warriors, Mark Calhoun (Undertaker), and Mike Rotundo (Irwin R. Schyster). Soon, Lex Luger will be joining the WWF.

For the first time I can remember, the WWF now has more technically skilled wrestlers than WCW. WCW increasingly seems to waste more and more air time on things other than matches. Yes, it's a world gone topsy-turvy and totally mad.

Has the Titan Tower moved to Atlanta? Does Stamford, Connecticut, now have a Peachtree Street?

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

KING OF THE ROAD

I was skeptical when I read that Chris Bernucca had taken over Craig Peters' "On The Road" column (May 1992), but when I flipped to page 10, I was pleasantly surprised. Chris wrote a good column and asked a lot of interesting questions. I would like to answer two of them.

1. Has anyone is the sport ever backed up his boasts better than "Nature Boy" Ric Flair? No. After Flair



Irwin R. Schyster (formerly Mike Rotundo) is one of several wrestlers who has switched federations. Reader Richard Evans accurately notes that the WWF looks like the old WCW.

won the Royal Rumble and the WWF World championship, he proved he is the greatest wrestler in the world. Say what you like about how he wins his matches, but the proof is in his history of titles that span over 19 years.

2. Why can't Paul E. Dangerously carry a beeper like anyone else? Paul E. Dangerously, the greatest wrestling mind, needs his phone so he can be in constant contact with his champions. Also, beepers aren't as effective as phones are for making "contact" with an opponent.

Keep up the good work, Chris! I look forward to reading your next article.

MINDY SUE VRELL
Brentwood, MO

HEARTBROKEN

I am very upset that Greg Valentine made the decision to leave the WWF—where he once held the tag team and Intercontinental titles and was always a top contender.

Through the years, Valentine has proven to be one of the WWF guys who never gave in and were always on the WWF scene. He and wrestlers like Tito Santana, Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Jake Roberts, Brutus Beefcake, and Jim Neidhart were all like that. Those names *are* the WWF.

I'll admit that Sid Justice, Undertaker, and Berzerker are cool to have in the WWF, but they'll never be that classic WWF material. It will never be the same without Valentine. Please,



Greg "The Hammer" Valentine (above) was a WWF mainstay and should return there, says reader Anthony Baccelliere. Valentine holds the WCW U.S. tag title with Terry Taylor.

Greg. "Slick" Ric Flair wised up. Why can't you?

ANTHONY BACCELLIERE
Farmingdale, NY

RANDY IS DANDY

I have been reading your magazine on and off for eight years and it still amazes me how much you praise Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan. Yes, both men *were* fantastic in their prime, but it's over for them.

There is a wrestler I wish that you would praise more often, and that's the "Macho Man," Randy Savage. Yes, he does dress outrageously. Yes, he does grunt a lot. Yes, Elizabeth seems to have smoothed his rough edges. But let's be serious: Savage is a tremendous wrestler. The way he

wiped the mat with Jake Roberts proves Savage still has what it takes.

And now as I write this, the day after WrestleMania, Savage is the champion one more time. But does that put him on the top of the hill? No! Because during Hogan's match, who shows up but The Ultimate Warrior, who helps Hogan win.

Hogan, of course, will pass the torch to Warrior, instead of Savage, who by all means deserves it the most. Once more, Savage is the champion but still has to play second fiddle to someone else. First it was Hogan, now it is Warrior, who ran from the WWF last year.

Long live the "Macho Man!"

ROBERT FIRTH
Madison, IN

MOONDOG MANIA

Ever since Richard Lee brought The Moondogs to Memphis and the USWA, they have been dominating. They are not pretty boys or muscle-men—they're just double tough.

When they first came in, they made life tough for Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller. Then Jerry Lawler stepped in. After that, Jarrett and Lawler called in Austin Idol, Junkyard Dog, Koko B. Ware, Kamala, Jimmy Valiant, and even Leatherface to help put away The Moondogs.

Finally, Lawler, Jarrett, and Leatherface put out Moondog Spike for a while, but on Saturday morning's television show, Lee brought in a new



Jerry Lawler is about to feel the wrath of The Moondogs. The USWA tag champs are using intimidation tactics to dominate the federation, says reader Ronnie Crockett.

Moondog to replace Spike. He is bigger than Spike, Spot, and Big Black Dog. His name is Cujo. On the show, they beat up Lawler, Jarrett, Tom Prichard, Dirty White Boy, and Eric Embry.

Long live Moondog Spot, Spike, Cujo, and Black Dog.

RONNIE CROCKETT
Tyronza, AR
(Continued on page 52)

SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

As April passed, and another Easter was marked off the calendar, there was a death and a resurrection in the City of Angels.

Jimmy Lennon, the great Jimmy Lennon, died at age 79 of heart failure. And the arena in which he made his name, beautifully announcing in the ring the names of boxers and wrestlers, the Olympic Auditorium, was prepping to reopen its doors in downtown Los Angeles after being boarded up for more than five years.

Jimmy Lennon and the Olympic are two of my earliest and fondest memories of the sport. The heyday of wrestling in Southern California was 20 years ago, when the Olympic was filled to near capacity every other Friday for matches that involved such men as Freddie Blassie, John Tolos, Killer Kowalski, Superstar Graham, and The Sheik.

"And here they are, claiming to be from New Mexico, Black Gordman and the Great Gol-ee-ath."

I absolutely adored Jimmy Lennon. He earned his fame as a boxing ring announcer and as Hollywood's choice for more than 75 films, including Raging Bull and Rocky III, but he never treated wrestling with anything less than professional dignity. He always approached his work seriously, but he also had a sense of humor. He truly appeared to get a kick out of allowing Mexican wrestlers Gordman and Goliath to rile the largely Mexican crowd with their claim of being from New Mexico.

The echoes of Lennon's voice, supplied by his son, Jimmy Jr., will probably still be heard in the Olympic when the refurbished 67-year-old arena opens for boxing in May or June. I hope there is a wrestling promoter out there who'll try to restore what the Olympic Auditorium provided its fans--including a 16-year-old New Yorker watching on UHF--a generation ago.

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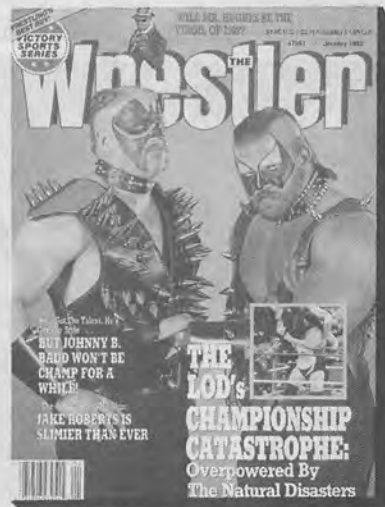
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NAMES MAKING

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR won back the hearts of fans everywhere when he returned to the WWF and saved **Hulk Hogan** from a brutal double-teaming at WrestleMania VIII. Now, he's demonstrating he's still one of the top grapplers in the sport.

On April 25 in Baltimore, Warrior scored an impressive disqualification victory over **Sid Justice**. The win was notable because Warrior had been back in action for less than three weeks—which followed a layoff of eight months.

"You wouldn't believe how ticked off Sid was afterward," said a federation insider. "He was kicking dents in lock-



THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

ers and tossing stuff all over the dressing room. He thought Warrior would be an easy touch because he hasn't been around for too long. He couldn't have been more wrong."

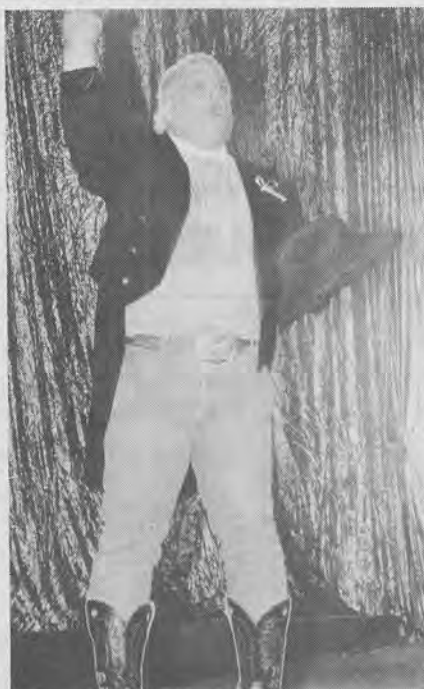
"For Warrior, it's a matter of revenge on the men he saved Hogan from," offered a close friend. "First, he pinned **Papa Shango** at a couple of TV tapings. Now, he's taking on Justice. Warrior wants to become a

major player on the scene in as little time as possible. So far, he's succeeding."

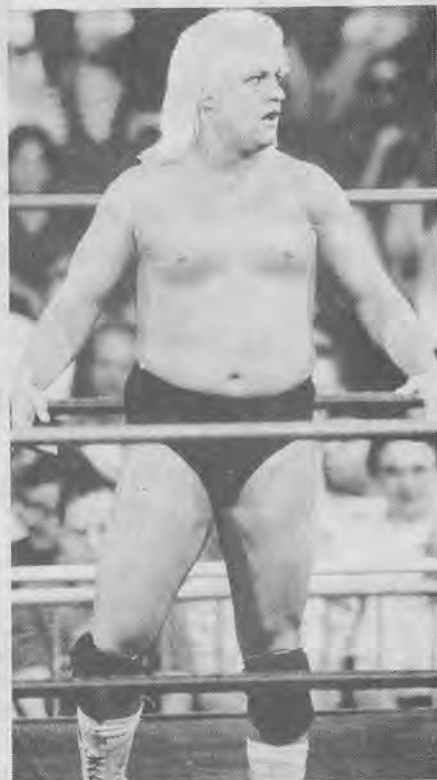
Justice's frustration was probably exacerbated by his inability to score a decisive victory over **The Undertaker** during the WWF's European tour following WrestleMania. Most of their matches ended in double-countouts.

It's starting to look more and more like "**American Dream**" **Dusty Rhodes** wants to make a full-time return to the sport. At an April 17 WCW television taping in Augusta, Georgia, Dusty accompanied his longtime friend **Nikita Koloff** to the ring for a match against **Big Van Vader**, who had his manager, **Harley Race**, in his corner. Rhodes and Race ended up battling each other all the way back to the locker room.

"I'm just being a troubleshooter, if you will," Rhodes claimed. "OI' Harley can't seem to keep his nose out of Nikita's business. As long as he keeps on getting involved, I'll keep doin' the



DUSTY RHODES



BUDDY LANDELL

same."

"Troubleshooter?" Race wondered. "He's a troublemaker, if you ask me! He doesn't even have a manager's license! The man is supposed to be an unbiased WCW official. What a laugh!"

There was plenty of action at Smoky Mountain Wrestling's inaugural television taping on April 23 in Harrogate, Tennessee. **Buddy Landell** won a 10-man "mountain mayhem" battle royal, but Smoky Mountain president **Sandy Scott** held up the \$5,000 first prize because Landell had thrown powder in **Tim Horner's** face to achieve the victory. Scott then ordered Landell to wrestle Horner for the prize money later that night. Horner scored the pin, but afterward Landell beat him up, tore up the check, and stuffed it in Horner's mouth.

Also on the card, **Jim Cornette** managed **The Heavenly Bodies**—

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

Stan Lane and **Tom Prichard**—to the Smoky Mountain tag team title. They defeated **The Fantastics**—**Bobby** and **Jackie Fulton**—to capture the belts. Former Rock 'n' Roll Express member **Robert Gibson** also made an appearance, pinning **Barry Horowitz**. Quite a debut for a promising new federation!

Two women's title changes of note: **La Tigresa** pinned **Sasha** to win the WWC women's title on April 25 in Cayey, Puerto Rico . . . "**Dirty White Girl**" **Kimberly** captured the USWA women's belt from **Lauren Davenport** on April 20 in Memphis, Tennessee . . . In what has to be considered an upset, **The Natural Disasters** lost the SWS tag team title to **King Haku** and **Yoshiaki Yatsu** on April 18 in Tokyo.

Pacific Northwest fans know **C.W. Bergstrom** primarily as a referee, but



DIRTY WHITE GIRL

this talented young man is changing all that. On April 21 in Vancouver, Washington, Bergstrom defeated rugged **Ron Harris** to win the PNW heavyweight title.

"I really can't tell you how support-

ive these fans have been," the new champion said. "They always respected my judgment when I was a ref and they've backed me 100 percent in my wrestling. I can already guarantee I'll be a more honorable champion than Harris ever was."

Dissension seems to be brewing between friends **Johnny Hot Body** and



JOHNNY HOT BODY

Larry Winters. Instead of celebrating Hot Body's April 26 victory in Philadelphia over **Jimmy Snuka** for the ECW title, they're arguing over who deserves more credit for the achievement. Hot Body won the belt after Winters shoved Snuka off the top rope and to the mat as he was preparing to crunch Hot Body with a flying bodypress.

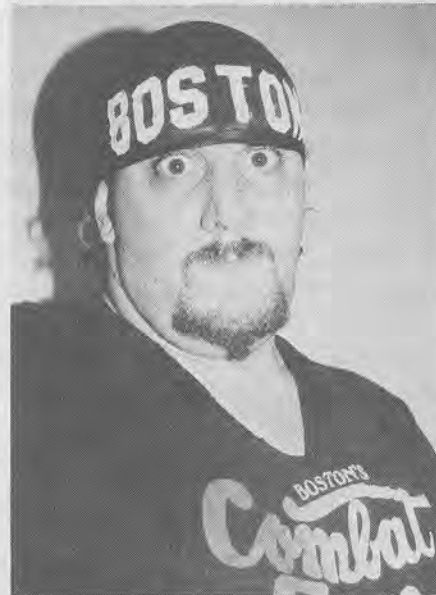
"Johnny wouldn't even be champion if I hadn't gotten involved, but now he's hogging all the glory!" Winters seethed. "The guy shows absolutely no gratitude. Man, he's really got me ticked off!"

"Hey, the deal was that me and Larry had to have a coin toss to see who'd get the shot at Snuka," Hot Body responded. "I won the toss, I got the match, and I won the belt. Case

closed! Talk about sour grapes!"

Snuka had the belt all of one day. On April 24, the new title was filled by matching the winners of two 10-man battle royals. Snuka won the belt by beating **Salvatore Bellomo**, but believe me, this is *not* the Bellomo many of you may remember. The Italian star has added about 75 pounds of bulk and now sports long, scraggly hair and a bushy, unkempt beard. Furthermore, he's abandoned a strictly scientific style in favor of brute force. He also has a new manager in loudmouthed **Stevie Wonderful**. Wonder what Mama and Papa Bellomo are thinking!

"**Boston Bad Boy**" **Tony Rumble**, formerly of IWCCW, is now a



TONY RUMBLE

manager in Universal Independent Superstars, where he's assembled an impressive and frightening group of men. With his stable of **Tony Atlas**, **Kevin Sullivan**, **Tasmaniac**, and **The Blaster**, Rumble is attempting to corner the market on mat mayhem on the East Coast.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

THE FIRST LIAR I ever knew was a straight-haired seven-year-old named Johnny, who lived on the same street as me in Ozone Park, a middle-class neighborhood in Queens, New York. Johnny had a very active imagination. He told me that the cracks in the asphalt of Whitelaw Street were caused by King Kong and Godzilla. At midnight, after all young boys and girls had fallen fast asleep, the two monsters would do battle in the city streets, and the pavement would give way under their sheer tonnage.

Being an impressionable five-year-old, I informed my mother of this not-to-be-missed main event. She tried to convince me that Johnny was spinning a bald-faced prevarication. But for the first time in my life, I was left with the dilemma of whom to believe.

Now, more than 20 years later, I am left with the same dilemma.

I would like to believe Hulk Hogan. I would like to believe him when he says on *The Arsenio Hall Show* that he has only used steroids three times, years ago, to rehabilitate an injury. I would like to believe that when he appears in front of children and urges them to say their prayers and take their vitamins that he is not the biggest hypocrite of all-time.

But I can't.

I would like to believe Vince McMahon. I would like to believe him when he says that he honestly was not aware of any of the sexual abuse allegations recently levied against his underlings. I would like to believe him when he appears on *Larry King Live* and says unequivocally that no WWF competitor is on steroids. I would like to believe him when he says that Murray Hodgson was fired because he was incompetent and not because he rebuffed sexual advances by WWF employees.

But I can't.

After Hogan's statements on *The Arsenio Hall Show*, several former wrestlers came forward and claimed that not only had Hogan used steroids, but they had injected him with the drugs themselves. Billy Jack Haynes says he injected Hogan with steroids. "Superstar" Billy Graham says he injected Hogan with steroids. David Shultz says he injected Hogan with steroids "hundreds of times."

This, in turn, piqued the interest of the print media. *The Los Angeles Times*, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, and *People Weekly* all began constructing stories exposing, among other things, alleged rampant steroid use in the wrestling industry. All three publications quoted or cited the statements of Haynes, Graham, and Shultz. All three offered Hogan an opportunity to respond to the allegations of his former colleagues.

And, Hogan, wrestling's Great Communicator, declined comment.



If Hogan's original statement was true, then why would he turn the other cheek to this blatant character assassination? Why would he not bring suit against those who went public with these terrible non-truths? Why would he refuse to be interviewed by some of the most widely read publications in order to speak his piece and clear the air, once and for all?

Maybe Hogan feels that he has said enough. Maybe Hogan believes that his words will be taken out of context.

Maybe Hogan was told by his boss to

lay low until this blows over.

McMahon also has declined comment to newspapers and magazines, where his quotes would carry far less weight than they would in an audio-visual medium. A well-spoken man in a suit looks and sounds much more credible than a ranting former wrestler whose body has been ravaged by steroids.

McMahon appeared on *Larry King Live* and *Donahue* to answer the allegations brought against his federation and its employees. Ever the promoter, he reportedly tried to cajole the *Donahue* staff into accepting some pre-show stipulations. To its credit, the show refused to give in.

McMahon claimed to have "no knowledge" of sexual harassment within the WWF, although Pat Patterson and Terry Garvin, the *Vince McMahon* two men who resigned amid the allegations, reported directly to McMahon. McMahon ballyhooed the federation's steroid and drug testing program, although Kerry Von Erich was allowed to return to competition barely one month after his arrest for forging drug prescriptions. McMahon vowed to conduct a thorough investigation of his own company, although at press time, six weeks had passed without any findings.

I don't believe Vince McMahon. I don't believe that he had "no knowledge" of the behavior of his immediate subordinates. You don't turn a sport into a multimillion-dollar marketing tool by having "no knowledge." McMahon probably knows at any given moment how many sheets of paper are in the company Xerox machine.

I don't believe Hulk Hogan, either. I don't believe that you can slink into semiretirement as former colleagues drag your once-proud name through the mud. You don't let people talk about you that way unless you know deep down in your heart of hearts that what they are saying is true.

Sorry, guys.



If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

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Actual questions

Who did Rick Martel defeat to win the AWA World title (1984)?

- 1) Jumbo Tsuruta
- 2) Ivan Koloff
- 3) Stan Hansen
- 4) Larry Zbyszko

Which of these wrestlers was not in *Bodyslam*?

- 1) Roddy Piper
- 2) Barbarian
- 3) Warlord

True or False: Ted DiBiase's parents were both professional wrestlers.

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following wrestlers did not attend West Texas State University?

- 1) Tito Santana
- 2) Wahoo McDaniel
- 3) Barry Windham
- 4) Dusty Rhodes

What 21-year-old was the youngest man ever to hold the NWA World title?

- 1) Tommy Rich
- 2) Kerry Von Erich
- 3) Lou Thesz
- 4) Dory Funk Jr.

How did you do?

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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

TO MANY PEOPLE, the big news at WrestleMania VIII wasn't Randy Savage's victory over Ric Flair for the WWF World title or Bret Hart's thrilling win over Roddy Piper for the Intercontinental title or Hulk Hogan's curtain call against Sid Justice.

In fact, the big news at WrestleMania VIII wasn't even a match: It was the return of Paul Ellering as manager of The Legion of Doom.

"I have returned!" Ellering declared. "I am the bad apple!"

But Ellering's return brings up this question: Does it really matter? Hawk and Animal won the WWF World tag team title without Ellering's guidance. It's hard to say if they were really a different team without their brilliant manager.

In the AWA, Hawk and Animal—then known as The Road Warriors—won the World tag team title with Ellering at their side. In the NWA, they won the World tag belts twice, but they were also noted underachievers: The best tag team in the world should always have the title.

But don't blame it on Ellering. In the WWF, The Legion of Doom achieved and underachieved. It is almost impossible for this team not to underachieve, because so much is expected of them. So, the question again is: Does it really matter?

Or, more specifically, does a manager matter at all? Are they mere window dressing, or do they actually have an effect—positive or negative—on a wrestler's career.

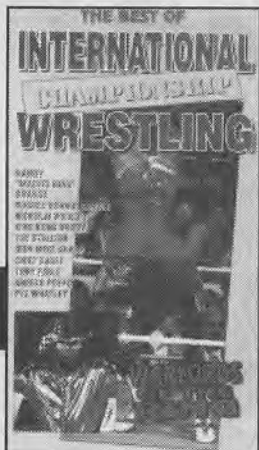
Let's look at a few examples. Rick Rude had a manager when he won the World Class title, a manager when he won the Inter-

(Continued on page 56)

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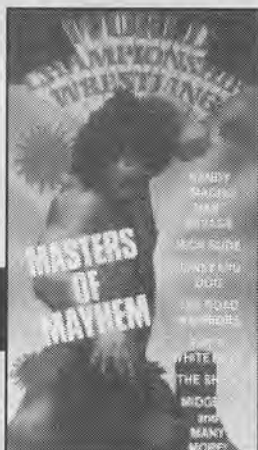
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The "Season's Beatings" broadcast! You'll see: Steve Williams vs. The Italian Stallion; Ivan Koloff (with one hand tied behind his back) vs. Paul Jones; U.S. Tag Team Title Match: The Fantastics vs. "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert and Ron Simmons and much more! #162 / 90 min / **\$29.95**



STARRCADE '86: The Sky Walkers

From The Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro (N.C.) Coliseum. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnights on a scaffold; "First Blood" match: Rhodes vs. Blanchard; Ron Garvin vs. Big Bubba; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Andersons in a cage; Jones vs. Valiant - hair vs. hair! #136 / 90 min / **\$29.95**

STARRCADE '87: Chi-Town Heat

Dusty Rhodes vs. Lex Luger for the U.S. Heavyweight Championship. Ric Flair vs. Ronnie Garvin for the World Heavyweight Championship. The Road Warriors against Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard. Also Nikita Koloff vs. Terry Taylor and much, much more! #296 / 126 min / **\$29.95**

STARRCADE '88: True Grit

The sixth annual Starrcade event and the first under the Turner banner! At the Scope in Virginia. Highlights include: Lex Luger's challenge of Ric Flair; Road Warriors vs. Sting & Rhodes; Windham vs. Bigelow; Rotundo vs. Rick Steiner, Midnights vs. Midnights and more! #137 / 125 min / **\$29.95**

GREAT AMERICAN BASH '86

LIMITED SUPPLY!! Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair in a steel cage, The Road Warriors vs. The Russians, Baby Doll, Dusty Rhodes & Magnum TA vs. Jim Cornette, The Midnight Express and Big Bubba and much more. #131 / 90 min / **\$29.95**

GREAT AMERICAN BASH '87

Featuring: Paul Ellering, The Road Warriors, Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff battle the Four Horsemen and J.J. Dillon. Ten men locked in combat in a steel cage! Nikita Koloff vs. Lex Luger; Ric Flair vs. Jimmy Garvin; Steve Williams, The Freebirds, The Rock 'n Roll Express, The Midnight Express with Jim Cornette and more! #295 / 125 min / **\$29.95**

GREAT AMERICAN BASH '88

The Price for Freedom
The controversial Bash tour heats up with Ric Flair & Lex Luger in Baltimore. Also Rhodes vs. Windham for U.S. title; triple cage "Tower of Doom" featuring Russian Assassin I, Ivan Koloff, Perez, Rotundo, & Sullivan vs. Road Warriors, Garvins & Williams; Fantastics vs. Midnights; Blanchard & Anderson vs. Nikita Koloff & Sting. #132 / 126 min / **\$29.95**

SUPERCLASH 85 - ROUND 1: Monsters Of The Mat Vol. 3

RARE!! Featuring: The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Freebirds for the AWA World Tag Team Championship. Also Little Tokyo vs. Little Mr. T for Midget's World Championship; Crusher Blackwell vs. The Ugandan Giant in a Bodyslam Match. #158 / 60min / **\$24.95**

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RARE!! Featuring: Steve Regal vs. Brad Rheingans; Sherri Martel vs. Candi Devine; Hennig, Hall, Gagne vs. Zbyszko, Stevens, Bockwinkel; Rick Martel vs. Stan Hansen! #160 / 60 min / **\$24.95**

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

NEWS ITEM: HUNTER BRAIN TURNS TO MOUSSE

Turn the page and you will find, as usual, my colleague Liz Hunter spouting hair gel rhetoric for women and men who think like women.

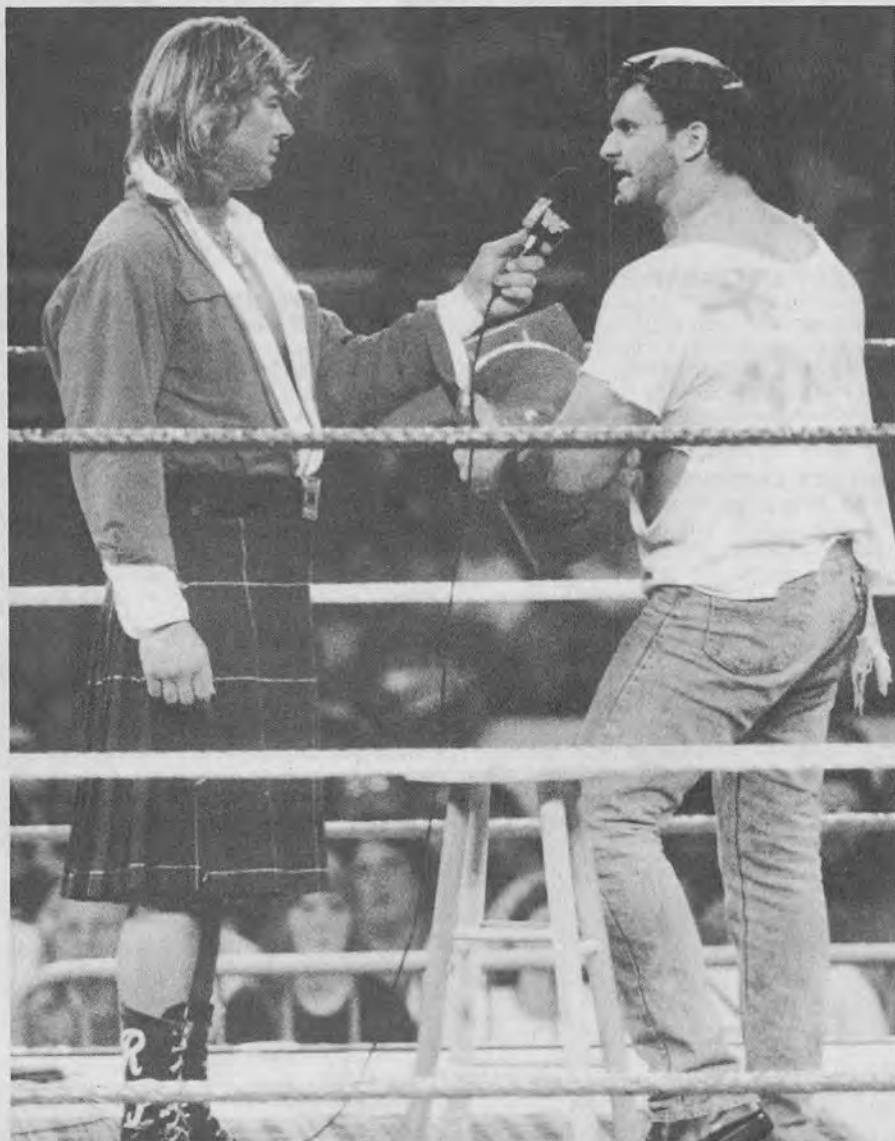
en. In a recent *PWI Weekly*, Ms. Hunter issued the following prognosis about the career of Roddy Piper:

"Roddy Piper may no longer be WWF I-C champ, but he's still charismatic—and tough. Piper re-instituted his "Piper's Pit" . . . his first guest was "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi, who took Piper to task for not hitting Bret Hart with the ring bell during their I-C title bout. Brawler said he would have clobbered Hart and intends to do that very thing in the near future. Piper responded by drilling Brawler with the bell. It's good to see the return of "Piper's Pit." It's even better to see the show's host as a fan favorite."

Talk about a total collapse of credibility! By describing Piper as "charismatic" and condoning his Lombardi-bashing, Liz hardly conceals the schoolgirl crush she has on "Rowdy" Roddy. Piper's behavior is inexcusable—imagine a rulebreaker acting in similar fashion—unless you're gooey-eyed for him, which Liz obviously is. It's sad to see a woman who has worked so hard at her craft forfeit her position with one short paragraph. I hate to say it, but Liz Hunter no longer deserves a voice in this magazine.

NEWS ITEM: I'D DRAW THE LINE AT DWARF TOSSING

The cry to legalize drugs is one familiar in Senate and Congress—
(Continued on page 60)



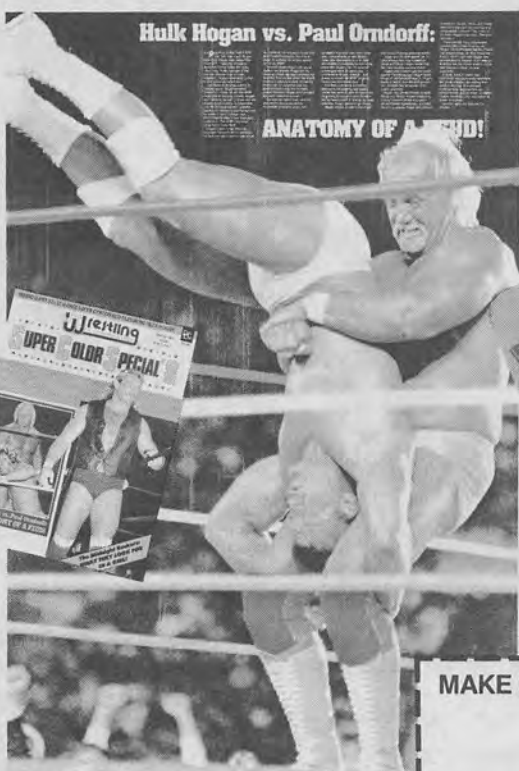
During his Intercontinental title match against Bret Hart at WrestleMania, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper refrained from hitting Hart with the ring bell. Instead, he waited until this edition of "Piper's Pit" to clobber "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi.

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

IT'S THE ASSIGNMENT no journalist wants, but somehow always manages to come my way. Professional athletes are close-mouthed to begin with, but question their health or confront their mortality, and you're a lock for a slamming door in your face. So when Stu Saks called me into his office and said, "Sting is damaged goods," I knew I was in trouble.

"He injured a rib," I said. "It happens every day." But I knew I wasn't fooling anyone. Sting's extraordinary ring success has been paralleled—haunted, if you will—by an accompanying set of injuries. Not two months into his new title reign, a self-proclaimed "healthy" Sting was out with a rib injury. Bad luck, or brittle bones? Saks wanted me to find out.

"Thanks a lot," I said, leaving his office. "Just when Sting and I had developed a real friendship."

What separates champions is their ability not only to pin their opponents, but to avoid injury. Ric Flair has sustained several injuries, but usually bounces back quickly. Willie Mays, Walter Payton, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar were all relatively injury-free. But every sport can also fill its own roster of "what could have beens"—football's Gale Sayers, baseball's Sandy Koufax, hockey's Bobby Orr—athletes whose bodies seemed unable to withstand their own incredible skills. Did Sting belong in this select, but unfortunate group of casualties?



WCW World champion Sting nearly lost the coveted title to Big Van Vader when the 440-pound contender slammed the "Stinger" to the mat and cracked two of his ribs.

I dreaded the confrontation, but made the call anyway. Surprise, surprise. It's all Sting wanted to talk about.

"It was a freak thing," he told me. "I tried to hit Vader with a flying bodysplash from the turnbuckle. But I didn't time it right and Vader caught me and slammed me to the mat. I know everyone is saying I can't defend a championship, but it's simply not true. Injuries are a part of pro

wrestling. This one was just a bad coincidence. It's not serious. There is no permanent damage. I should be back in a few weeks."

Isn't there a bad precedent here? Just when Sting appears poised to take his game to the next level, he is undermined by injury. And though he tries to dismiss its gravity, his cracked ribs are not exactly a case of dandruff.

"Sting must be just as careful
(Continued on page 58)

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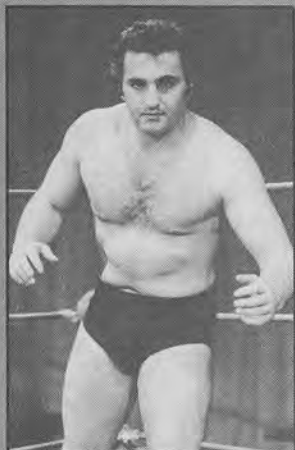
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



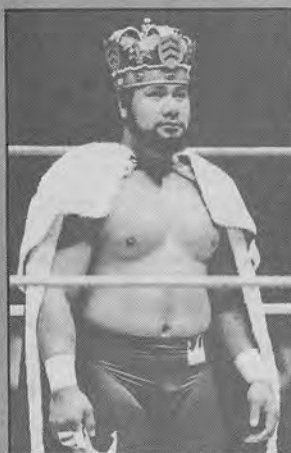
FRED CURRY

During the '60s and '70s, this exciting aerial specialist, the son of rulebreaker "Wild" Bull Curry, was a major star in the Midwest. He also had a successful stint in the WWF in 1978. However, after that time, he decided to get involved in real estate. Today, "Flyin'" Fred is still involved in that business, but also continues to compete for several independent federations in Ohio and surrounding areas. He still hurls a mean dropkick!



SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK

"I'm just a beach bum!" screamed the always manic Humperdink from his home in Daytona, Florida, recently. "Because of the vast amount of money I made in the wrestling business, I can now sit back and reap the rewards of my career." Even though he admits to being "fat and happy," Humperdink, the former manager of Bam Bam Bigelow, is fast to add that his wrestling career is a long way from being completed.



HAKU

The former WWF star and member of The Islanders is now on a very successful tour of Japan. The martial arts expert has teamed with Yoshiaki Yatsu to win the Super World Sports tag team title, and recently the duo defended the belts against The Natural Disasters. Despite constant offers from several rulebreaking managers, Haku says he has no immediate plans to return to the WWF. He made his last appearance at the Royal Rumble.



DONNA CHRISTANTELO

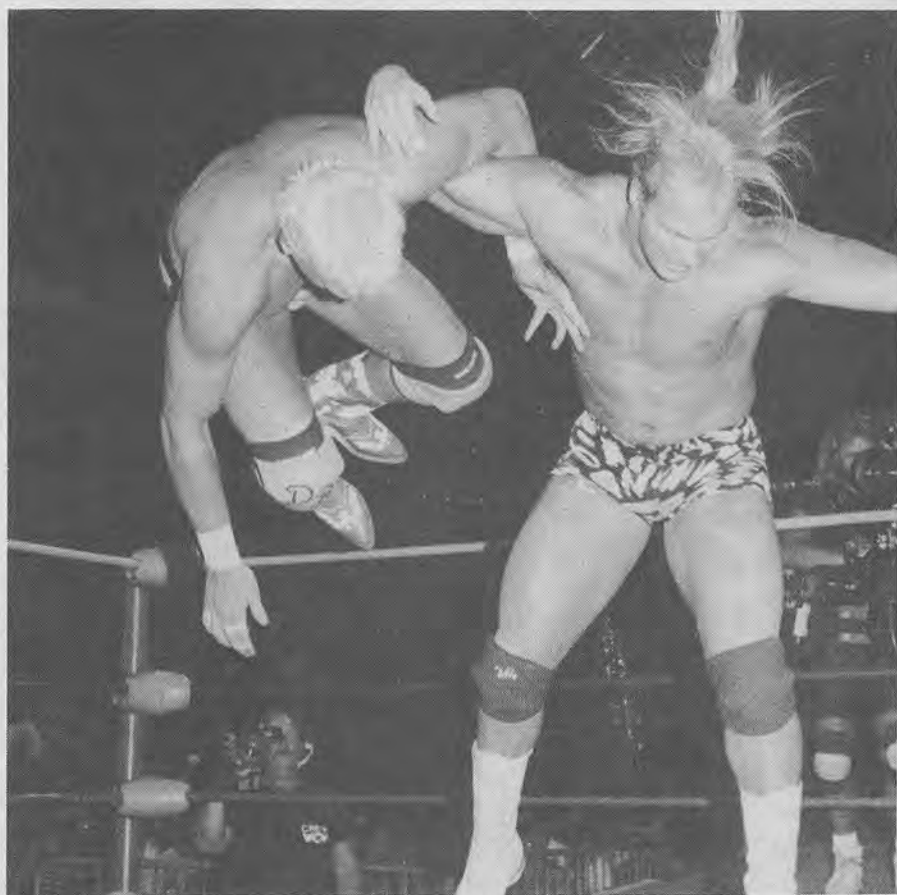
This tough battler was known throughout the world as one of the finest women wrestlers in history. She retired several years ago and is now training aspiring young wrestlers as a top instructor at Fabulous Moolah's training camp in Columbia, South Carolina. "Wrestling is and always has been my life," said Christantello, who has calmed considerable since her mat prime. "Now I'm proud to bring my knowledge to the rookies."

INSIDE WRESTLING

193

CAPSULE PROFILE

"STUNNING" STEVE AUSTIN is the current WCW television champion (*"I'm the greatest TV champion in the history of WCW!"*) ... Began his career in 1990 as the first graduate of Chris Adams' wrestling school in Texas (*"As if I even needed to go to school!"*) ... Teamed with his mentor Adams for a time (*"Yeah, I actually made the mistake of listening to him"*) ... Split with Adams in brutal fashion (*"I was going to prove the student was better than the teacher"*) ... Scored several victories over Adams, but was not satisfied (*"It just wasn't enough to beat him"*) ... Hired Adams' ex-wife, Jeannie Clark, as his manager (*"You should've seen the look on his face when he first saw her. We totally messed with his head"*) ... Adams countered by bringing his current wife, Toni, to the ring (*"An act of desperation"*) ... Their mixed tag team bouts were the talk of Texas for months (*"That's because of the superior skills of Jeannie and me"*) ... Jeannie left his side for a while, then returned in January 1991 (*"She couldn't resist being around me"*) ... Began competing more on the Memphis end of the USWA ... On February 25, pinned Southern champion Jeff Jarrett, but the belt was held up because his

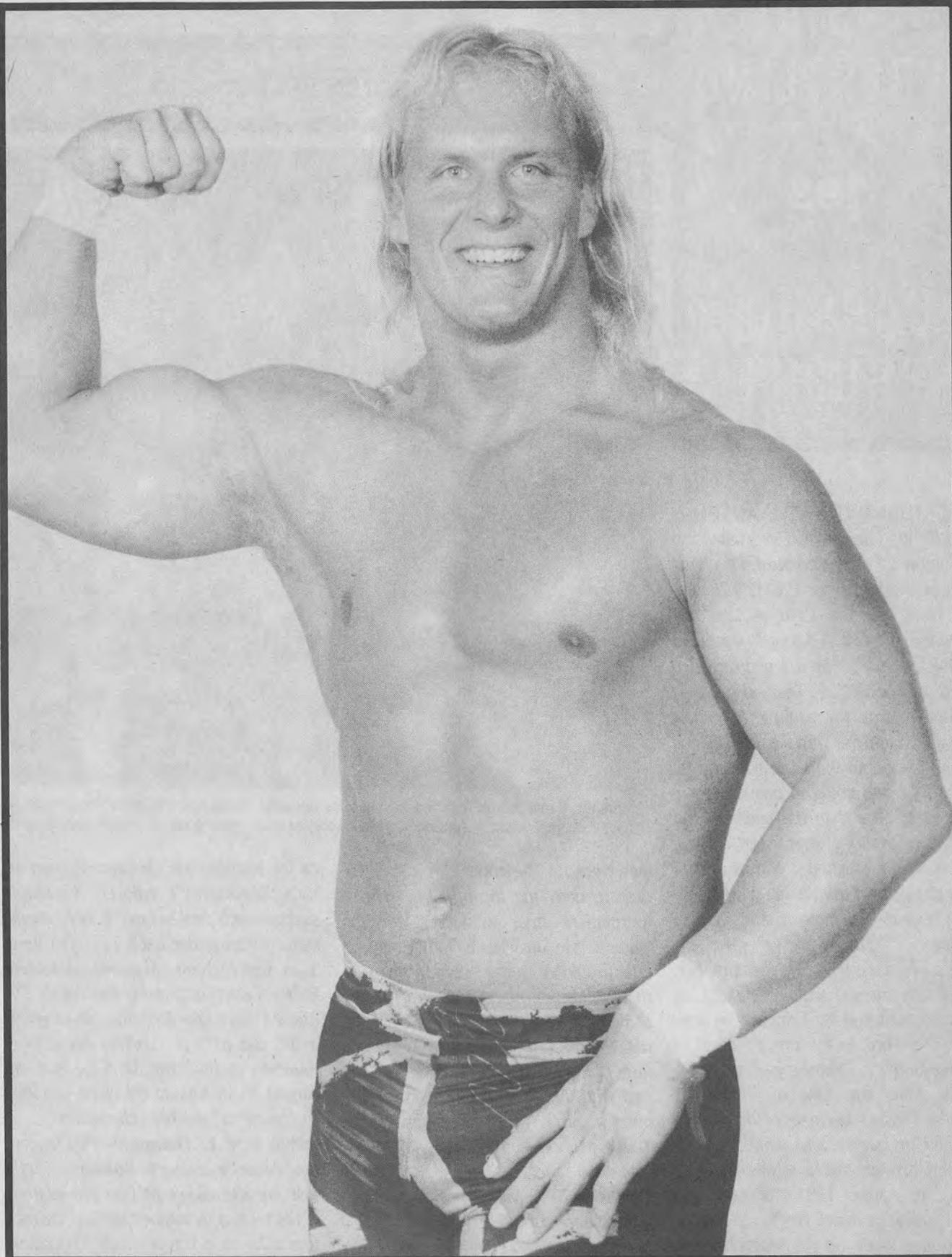


"Stunning" Steve Austin has had his share of beautiful valets and title glory. He has been WCW TV champion since June 3, 1991, the longest reign among current WCW champions.

feet were on the ropes (*"A cheap excuse to deny me the title"*) ... Lost a tournament final to Jarrett for the held-up title on March 9 in Memphis (*"It should've never come down to that in the first place"*) ... Was briefly a member of J.C. Ice Baby's "Ice Parade" with Jeff Gaylord (*"J.C. was a little punk; I had nothing to gain hanging with him"*) ... Tag teamed frequently with Tom Prichard (*"Dr. Tom's a good guy—or was, anyway"*) ... Allied with Eric Embry ... Left the USWA in May; Embry claims to have forced him out (*"He lied. That's all I have to say"*) ... Moved to WCW, where he was managed by former PNW valet Vivacious Veronica ... In a matter of weeks, he dumped Veroni-

ca for Jeannie, who became known as Lady Blossom (*"I enjoyed so much success with her before. It only made sense to bring her back"*) ... On June 3 in Birmingham, Alabama, defeated Bobby Eaton to capture the WCW TV title (*"Didn't take long for me to score a hit, did it?"*) ... Lost to Sting in a tournament final for the U.S. belt on August 25 in Atlanta (*"I came so close to being a double champion"*) ... Joined Paul E. Dangerously's Dangerous Alliance without Blossom (*"Let's just say she didn't fit into our plans"*) ... Is touted by supporters and detractors alike as a future world champion (*"Naturally, the TV belt is just one step on the path to complete dominance!"*)

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



STEVE AUSTIN

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SUSSEX, ENGLAND By Hugh Powell



**BRET HART
vs.
SHAWN MICHAELS**



One week after winning the Intercontinental title from Roddy Piper at WrestleMania VIII, the "Hitman" defended against Shawn Michaels, who has become the WWF's "Mr. Arrogance." Initially, it appeared as though Shawn had a very good chance of winning, as he matched Hart move for move. His suplexes were especially on target. Then, slowly, Bret took control of the contest and scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Tito Santana pinned Repo Man ... Hacksaw Duggan pinned Dino Bravo ... The Legion of Doom defeated The Nasty Boys ... Davey Boy Smith pinned Ric Flair ... World champion Randy Savage pinned The Mountie.

ATLANTA, GA By Ed Crawford



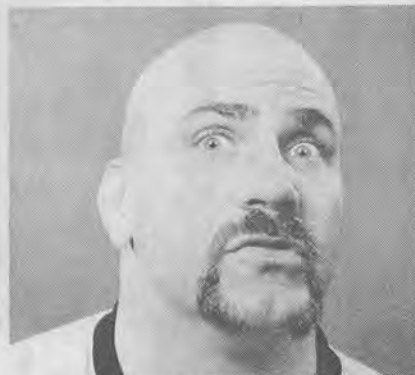
**STING
vs.
BIG VAN VADER**



Vader had promised to destroy Sting in this critical matchup at The Omni. He very nearly succeeded. Sting attempted a flying bodypress from the top turnbuckle, but Vader caught him in mid-air and slammed him to the mat. Vader made a critical mistake by not taking the easy pin. Instead, he shoved referee Mike Adkins and earned a disqualification. It was later learned that Sting had suffered two cracked ribs and a bruised spleen.

OTHER BOUTS: Nikita Koloff pinned "Diamond" Dallas Page ... Ron Simmons pinned Cactus Jack ... Junkyard Dog & Barry Windham defeated Larry Zbyszko & Steve Austin ... Rick Steamboat beat U.S. champion Rick Rude by disqualification ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated World tag team champions Arn Anderson & Bobby Eaton by disqualification.

KNOXVILLE, TN By David Faber



**NIKITA KOLOFF
vs.
"DIAMOND" DALLAS PAGE**



One of Koloff's first major opponents upon his return to WCW was Page, the manager-turned-wrestler. Although Page is a game competitor, Nikita controlled this bout from the outset. Koloff simply overpowered Page, who just didn't possess the tools to fight back. When he did counter a maneuver by Nikita, the Lithuanian became more determined to finish him off. Nikita went on to score a pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Mike Graham & Greg Valentine defeated Tom Zenk & Marcus Alexander Bagwell ... Ron Simmons pinned Cactus Jack ... Dustin Rhodes & Barry Windham defeated Larry Zbyszko & Steve Austin ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat World tag team champions Arn Anderson & Bobby Eaton by disqualification.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



MONTREAL, QUEBEC By Bertrand Hebert



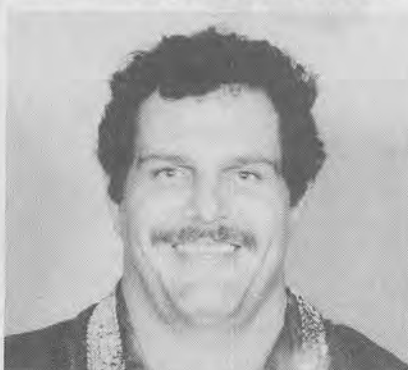
TITO SANTANA
vs.
IRWIN R. SCHYSTER



IRS took a break from tag team title defenses to take on "El Matador" in a match that should have been more scientific than it was. That was Schyster's fault, because he continually resorted to illegal maneuvers. Santana, though, retaliated with equal force, refusing to allow IRS to cheat his way to victory. As the match went on, Santana gained momentum. It appeared he was on his way to the win, but the time limit expired and the match was declared a draw.

OTHER BOUTS: Rick Martel defeated J.W. Storm ... Tatanka beat Col. Mustafa ... The Warlord beat Jim Brunzell ... The Bushwhackers & Bret Hart defeated The Nasty Boys & The Mountie ... Shawn Michaels beat Virgil ... Sid Justice defeated Randy Savage.

DALLAS, TX By Eduardo Quintana



GARY YOUNG
vs.
SCOTT PUTSKI



Trustworthy one day, sneaky the next; that's Gary Young, the man Putski had to face at the Sportatorium. For a while, Young looked willing to fight the match cleanly. To some, it even looked as though he might be abandoning his rulebreaking ways. But that hope didn't last long. Steven Dane came to the ring and interfered on Young's behalf, allowing him to score the pin over Putski.

OTHER BOUTS: Steven Dane pinned Todd Overbow ... Terry Simms drew with The Viper ... "Wild" Bill Irwin pinned Bull Pain ... James Beard defeated Bruce Prichard ... Eddie Gilbert & Angel of Death beat The Dark Patriot & Big Bad John.

DARLINGTON, SC By Greg Price



WAHOO McDANIEL
vs.
IVAN KOLOFF



Those watching this matchup between two men who have been in the sport for more than 20 years may not have expected much action. They were surprised. McDaniel and Koloff went at each other with a fury that would be expected from much younger competitors. When Koloff threatened to bring his chain into the ring, things got out of control. After constant threats, the referee disqualified the "Russian Bear."

OTHER BOUTS: Bambi pinned Peggy Lee Leather ... Johnny Kidd pinned Cruel Connection I ... The Ringlords defeated Tommy Gunn & Chaz Rocco ... Wahoo McDaniel won a battle royal.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**



SAVAGE VS. FLAIR AT WRESTLEMANIA

INDIANAPOLIS: Okay, so where's the cheesecake? If I remember correctly, just moments before WrestleMania VIII started, Ric Flair promised us photos—juicy ones—of Elizabeth in a “centerfold pose.” While most of the crowd was watching Flair’s World title defense against Randy Savage, I had my eyes glued to the big screen atop the Hoosier Dome. All I saw was Flair wrestling Savage in one of the best WrestleMania matches I’ve ever seen. Now, that’s not saying much. I could count on one hand the number of truly good WrestleMania matches, and a fair estimate is that there have been at least 90 matches in WrestleMania history. Well, Savage-Steambot at WrestleMania III in 1987 was number one in my book, and

Savage-Flair isn’t far behind. Funny how Savage has this knack for making it a great match whenever he’s really motivated. Never before have I seen a wrestler go through so many ups and downs, and most of the ups and downs are of his own making. Savage is intense and dangerous, but he really brings up the level of the WWF at certain times. Losing the World title to Hulk Hogan a few years ago took a lot out of him, and I get the feeling he put a lot into revitalizing his thing with Elizabeth. Now he’s really going to have his hands full with challenges from Flair and Sid Justice, but I think Savage at his best is capable of handling anybody. As for Hogan, if that match against Justice was his last one, it wasn’t very

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

good. Hogan deserved to go out in a blaze of glory, not on the trail of a disqualification.

ATLANTA: Two days after narrowly escaping with his title in Augusta, Sting stepped into the ring again to face Big Van Vader and scored the luckiest DQ victory of his life. Thanks to Vader's overzealousness, Sting is still WCW World champion. He's also the WCW World champion with cracked ribs and an extended stay on the sidelines, as of this writing. Sting went for a flying bodypress, but Vader caught him and slammed him to the mat. It was an awesome slam that shook the rafters of The Omni, as well as Sting's insides. But with Sting writhing in pain and obviously a beaten man, Vader got carried away and struck the referee. The ref called for a disqualification and Sting was saved. Incredible. Sting admitted later he would have been helpless if Vader immediately went for the pin. "He's not a very smart man," Sting told me. "He has a lot to learn. I guess that's why he's not champion and I am." My question is: How many more serious injuries can Sting take? Almost every part of his body has been injured, and this makes twice in the past six months that Sting has ended up in the hospital. Bruno Sammartino told me years ago that the reason he was able to go on so long was that he never tried the acrobatic maneuvers so favored by many wrestlers today. They're too tough on the body. At this point, Sting's body is about 10 years older than his actual age, and that's not good.

TOKYO: Here at the most bizarre wrestling card of the year, former world heavyweight boxing champion Leon Spinks won the WWA World martial arts title from Tarzan Goto. Amazing, say the locals. "How can it be?" asked a WWA spokesman. The concern is Spinks won't return to defend the belt, and it seems like a reasonable concern. I don't think Spinks thought he could win the match. He figured he'd collect a big paycheck, wrestle Goto, and go home. But then he went and won the darn match, setting off a string of pained reactions. Leon's behavior can't be predicted from one day to the next, so I can't see how the WWA is going to plan a series of title defenses for him. As for Goto, his reaction afterward was

a mixture of shock and amusement. "Now there is *no* WWA World martial arts champion," Goto said through an interpreter. "I have suffered the most from this loss, but the federation will suffer, too." Well, I'm not going to suffer any longer. I'm leaving Japan.

NORFOLK, VA: Nikita Koloff looks good. After months on the sidelines and a stunning return in late-February, the "Russian Nightmare" doesn't look much different than when he left us last year. Of course, beating "Diamond" Dallas Page is nothing to write home



NIKITA KOLOFF

about, but it's the ease of Nikita's victories that impress me. His "Russian sickle" clothesline is devastating, and more than a few WCW wrestlers are wondering how they're going to handle Koloff once he comes their way. Nikita, however, isn't looking that far ahead. "One match at a time," Koloff said, proving he's been listening to interviews with hockey and basketball players. "I learned a long time ago not to plan my future too far ahead because it can change in a minute. Right now I'm happy. That's enough." □

PUNK!

WHY BRIAN CHRISTOPHER'S BAD ATTITUDE WORKS FOR HIM

Photos by Scott George & Brian Tirpak



Brian Christopher torments an elderly fan (below) and offers a self-satisfied smile (right). His surly attitude may tick people off, but he has backed it up by winning the USWA Southern and Texas titles.



Ever since he entered the USWA, young Brian Christopher has angered officials and fans with his flippant comments and surly ring demeanor. Compounding the bad feelings is the fact that Christopher has come close to backing up nearly every insulting word he says!

By Bob Smith

IT'S A SITUATION unlike any in the wrestling world today. Early each Saturday morning, competitors from all over the country congregate at the studios of WMC-TV in Memphis for the live broadcast of *USWA Championship Wrestling*. Years ago, broadcasts such as this were common; today, this stands as the last weekly live mat program being telecast anywhere.

Before the program, wrestlers in full ring garb are sitting in the dressing area waiting to be called to the ring. But it's two minutes before air time, and matchmaker Eddie Marlin—who also serves as a producer's assistant—is frantic.

"Where's Christopher?" Marlin bellows as he races into the room, dropping papers everywhere.

"Where the hell is Brian Christopher? He's supposed to be in the opening match, and he's not even here yet!"

At air time, commentators Dave Brown and Corey Macklin are making their opening greeting to the fans in the studio and the thousands of fans watching at home. Just then Christopher comes swaggering through the press gate and into the studio.

"Where have you been?" Marlin shrieks. "You were supposed to be here a long time ago! I've got a good mind to fine and suspend



Christopher looks like he's yawning as he applies a figure-four to Cat Garrett (above). The rulebreaker looks to maim Garrett by delivering a kick to the side of Garrett's knee (right).



you! You're on in less than 30 seconds!"

Christopher's self-satisfied smirk never leaves his face as he reaches out, rubs Marlin's hair, and pulls off the matchmaker's glasses.

"Keep your false teeth in, old man," Christopher retorts. "I've got my ring gear on under my street clothes. Besides, what right to do you have to be jumpin' on my case? You may be a great ex-wrestler, but I could still kick your butt."

Relieved that the show will go on intact, a red-faced Marlin walks away. When Christopher walked to the ring for his bout against young T.D. Steele, he greets Brown by calling him "an overrated weatherman" and claims that Macklin "wouldn't know a wristlock from a wristwatch." He then spends several minutes trading insults with the fans before finally locking up.

"What a punk," says young fan Marty Lander as Christopher hits the ring. "I hope T.D. can beat him up good."

No chance. From the opening bell, Christopher dominates Steele with suplexes and slams, eye gouges and kicks. In less than two minutes, Christopher has defeated his overmatched opponent, leav-

(Continued on page 62)



Christopher has scientific skills but prefers to dispense of Garrett by mauling his face. Christopher got an assist from Eric Embry during his title match against Tom Prichard.

WRESTLING'S LONGEST YEAR!

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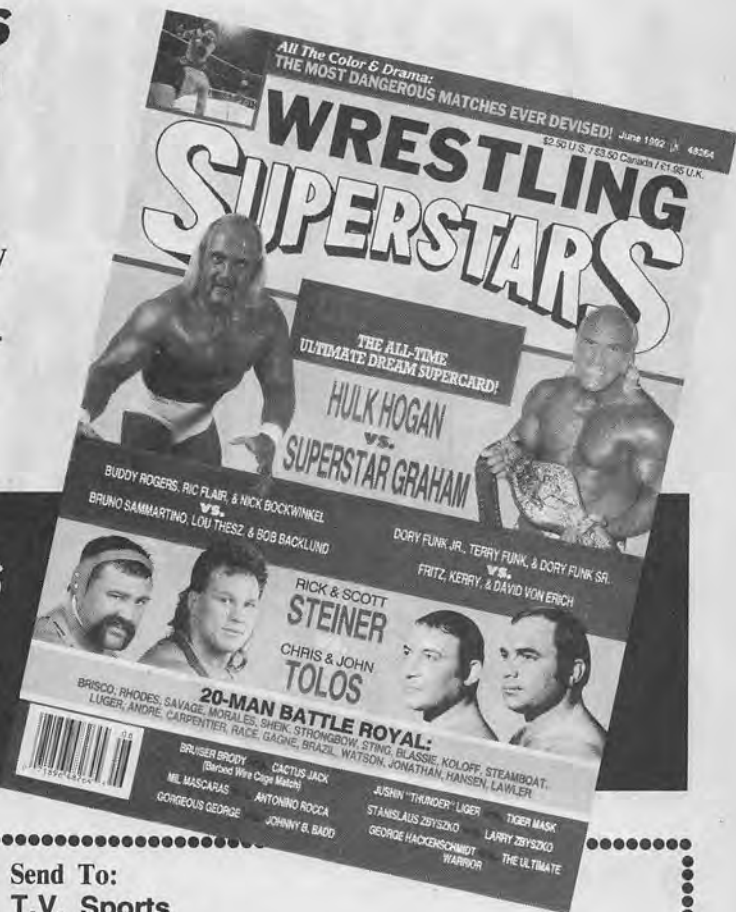
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U.S. Tag Champs Greg Valentine & Terrence Taylor

A CONSTANT BATTLE FOR RESPECT

By Eddie Ellner

CRITICS OF THE WWF insist the federation swallows its young—and old—forcing its competitors into outrageous and often demeaning scenarios to maximize their talents and personalities.

No other federation imposes its will on wrestlers like the WWF. The pressure is not just to succeed, but to succeed *big*. The federation is willing to drill a hundred dry holes to find that one gusher, that next Hulk Hogan. As a result, a lot of wrestlers have suffered untold indignities. A lot of careers have been permanently scarred.

Certainly, no two wrestlers better fit that description than current WCW U.S. tag team champions Terrence Taylor and Greg "The Hammer" Valentine.



Why do Terrence Taylor and Greg Valentine hold the U.S. tag team title, but not the respect that should come with the belts? It's their pasts that are causing their futures to be uncertain—even if their presents are as bright as can be



Greg Valentine may be able to force a rookie like Marcus Alexander Bagwell to respect him, but many WCW grapplers look at "The Hammer" disdainfully.

With victories over Nikita Koloff and Steve Williams, Taylor catapulted from the old UWF into the WWF with dreams of superstardom. However, though Taylor was young and handsome and superbly skilled, the WWF decided he lacked "oomph" and relegated him to fringe matches on tiny regional cards. It was a wrestling hell from which he seemed unable to escape.

"I made a big mistake," he readily admits today. "But I felt my back was against the wall. I had to do something significant."

That big mistake was The Red Rooster, Taylor's strange WWF image. Storming the ring dressed like Big Bird only confirmed that he had made a disastrous career decision. He returned to WCW, but remained unsure of his identity. Taylor joined The York Foundation and became "The Computerized Man Of The '90s." After that relationship dis-



"The Hammer" incapacitates Tom Zenk with a chinlock. Valentine and Taylor have scored impressive victories over Zenk and Bagwell, but they continue to be lightly regarded.

solved, he drifted a while before joining forces with Greg Valentine.

"Best thing that's ever happened to me," says Taylor. "Greg was in the same boat I was. If ever two people needed each other, it was us."

Indeed, Greg Valentine had also suffered greatly in the WWF. A former Intercontinental champion, Valentine teamed with The Honky Tonk Man to form the successful tag team called Rhythm 'n' Blues, but soon Valentine found himself playing second fiddle—literally—to his outrageous teammate. He dyed his hair black and air-guitared the crowd as he tried to endure Honky Tonk's interminable Elvis imitations.

Raised in the tradition of one of wrestling's proudest families, the act took its toll on Valentine.

"It was eating me up inside," he admitted. "I was raised to wrestle the old-fashioned way. If I wanted to listen to music, I went to a bar. If I wanted to play music, I would have taken music lessons."

The rollercoaster ride ended after Valentine split with former manager Jimmy Hart. But Valentine found himself in WWF purgatory, unable to obtain title matches—but obligated to fulfill his contract.

"I was going through the motions for a while, and my wrestling definitely suffered," Valentine admitted. "I needed something new—something exciting."

When Valentine arrived in WCW, Taylor immediately sought him out.

"I had tremendous respect for Greg's ability and thought we would make a great team," Taylor said. "And I wanted to assure him that I had buried the Rooster."

Valentine didn't require an explanation. "I knew what the WWF could lead you to do," he said. "I knew Terrence had the skills. Considering what we had both been through, I thought it was a great idea to join forces. I guess I was right."

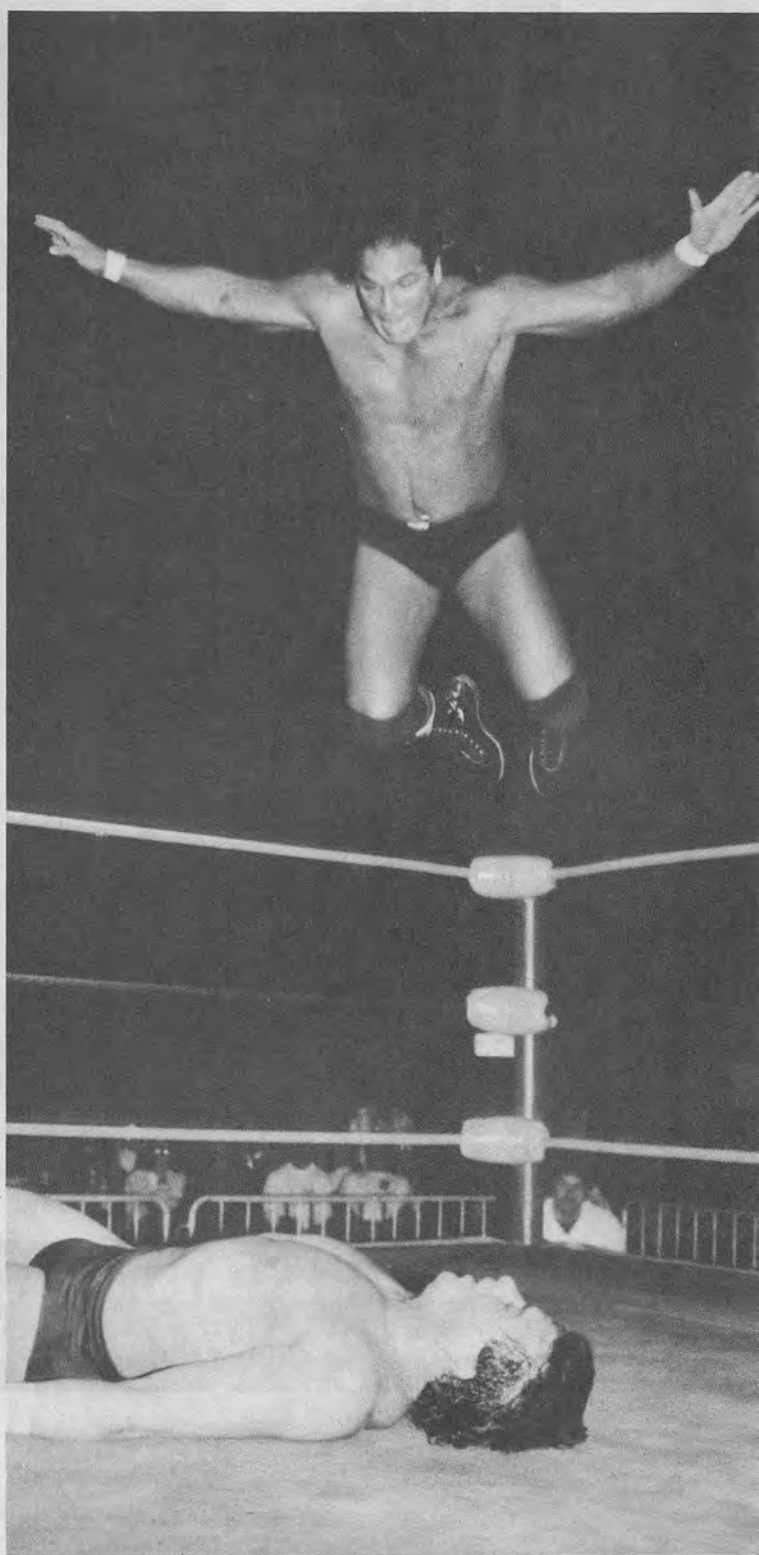
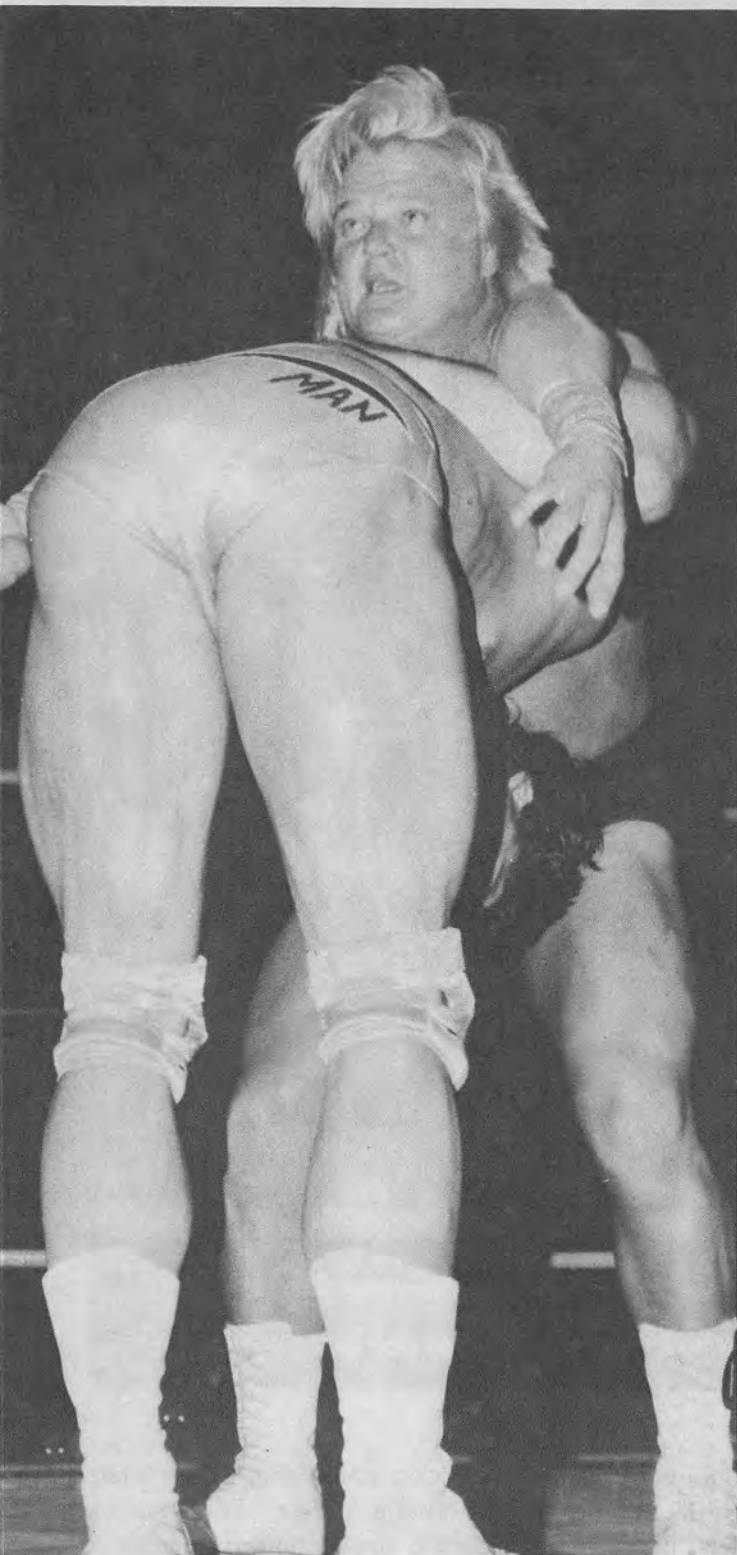
Valentine and Taylor made short work of Ron Simmons and Big Josh to capture the U.S. championship, and since then have been unstoppable. The top contenders for the belts, The Freebirds and the new duo of Tom Zenk and Marcus Alexander Bagwell, have been soundly defeated. The team has been rated as high as third among the world's best tag teams.

So what's the problem?

"We're still not getting the respect we should," complained Taylor. "Greg and I are proud to defend our belts, but want some marquee matchups. To tell you the truth, we want Rick and Scott Steiner. We also want a shot at the WCW tag team title. We respect Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton and all of The Dangerous Alliance, but facts are facts. We've defeated everyone they've put in the ring with us. We need better competition."

Valentine attributes the lack of top quality opposition to the promoters' long memories.

"They must have their doubts about our staying



Both Valentine (above left) and Taylor (above right) say they're tired of facing Zenk. They want new competition, specifically Rick and Scott Steiner or World tag champs Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton.

power," he says. "They don't think we can sustain a championship effort for a long time. All I can say is that everyone is in for a big surprise. We are the comeback kids. We are going to make life miserable for a lot of wrestlers.

"After what Terrence and I have been through, we are firm believers in the old saying: 'You meet the same people on the way up as you do on the

way down.' As we climb the ratings, I'll be sure to give a swift kick to the people who didn't have time for us when we were down."

Chances are they won't be down again. Valentine and Taylor have beaten the odds, and they're at the very top of their game.

It's convincing the rest of the world that will be the hard part. □

THE CLOSER HE GETS...



To err is human, but to do what Ric Flair did was just plain stupid. When the "Nature Boy" brazenly kissed Elizabeth, he raised the ire of Randy Savage like no one has ever done!

By Eddie Ellner

THERE ARE PHYSICAL blunders, thousands of them, that color the history of professional athletics:

Roy Riegels' infamous wrong-way run toward his own goal line with a recovered fumble in the 1925 Rose Bowl.

The inadvertent pass of Georgetown's Freddie Brown to James Worthy to clinch the 1982 NCAA basketball championship for North Carolina.

Mookie Wilson's groundball that snuck its way through Bill Buckner's legs, giving the Mets improbable new life in the 1986 World Series.

Likewise, there are errors of omission, coaching mistakes, strategy foulups, and mental lapses that have also resulted in tragic loss and avoidable defeats.

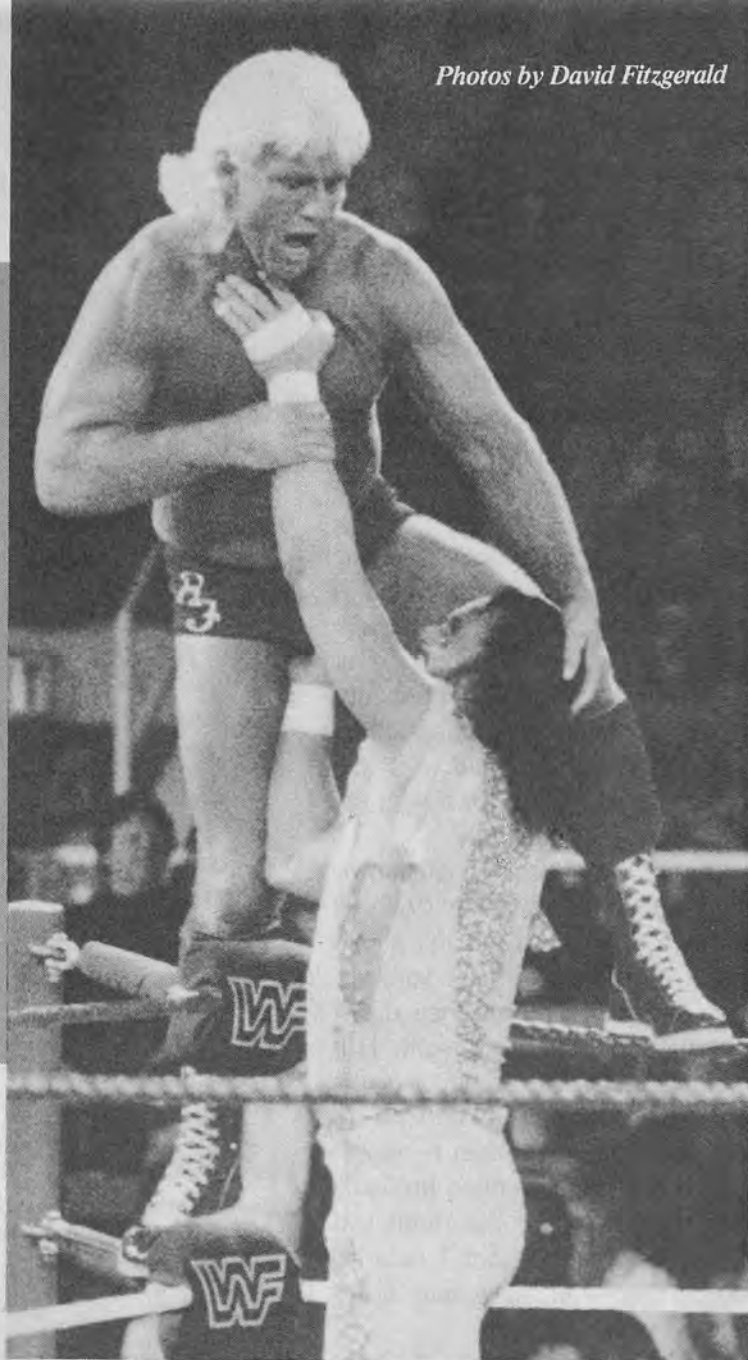
And then there is the recent miscalculation performed by Ric Flair, which overshadows them all. Yes, *that* Ric Flair. Eight-time world champion. Competitor nonpareil. Master

technician in the ring, master strategist outside it. Flair's Royal Rumble victory is already ranked by many as the greatest single achievement in pro wrestling history. Yet, barely three months later, Flair committed a strategic blunder that may rank with history's greatest errors of judgment.

Flair's whopper cost him his title, his reputation and—judging from remarks made recently by "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig—perhaps his closest adviser. Characteristically, Flair will not admit his baiting of Elizabeth

THE MORE SAVAGE "MACHO MAN" BECOMES!

Photos by David Fitzgerald



When Ric Flair pursued Elizabeth at WrestleMania (opposite page), he brought upon himself the fury of Randy Savage (above).

and "Macho Man" Randy Savage was a mistake. Despite his title loss, Flair still will not admit he erred, and to prove himself, he continues to badger Elizabeth and infuriate Savage.

The result: Savage pinned Flair three times within the 30-day period beginning with WrestleMania VIII. Additionally, Flair dropped a decision to Davey Boy Smith—an incredible result—and barely survived encounters against wrestlers with barely half his talent.

To understand his stubbornness, one must understand Ric Flair—and that is no simple matter. Historically, Flair has never been satisfied with just piling up wins. For most of his career, Flair's vast skills so overwhelmed his opponents that it made the result a foregone conclusion—and it made the ring a boring place for someone who suffered boredom terribly.

"Flair could do anything he wanted in the ring," claimed one long-time Flair admirer. "When you're so

much better than anyone else, you get lazy. He was a man playing with children. He needed other incentives to maintain his motivation."

Thus began Flair's "second" career—his determination to conquer his opponents physically and mentally. In this career, a pinfall or a submission was not sufficient evidence of victory. Flair marked victory by the degree to which he could humiliate his opponents. While some wrestlers sadistically tracked the number of men they've sent to the

hospital, Flair kept tabs on his opponents who needed physical and emotional repair after he defeated them.

"Flair was relentless," said one man who worked as his researcher. "He'd find out the most intimate details of his opponents' lives and whisper to them about it during their matches. He would wrap a guy up in a figure-four and then go to work on his psyche. It was fascinating to watch."

Flair had a favorite tactic, and one that has come back to haunt him. In a world where many women flock to champions of every sport, Flair would literally steal his opponents' girlfriends the night before their match. Few women could resist the opportunity to do the town with the globetrotting "Nature Boy."

"Flair didn't earn his reputation by sitting home and watching TV," said an old friend. "He'd get the girl to go out with him and make sure pictures were taken during their date."

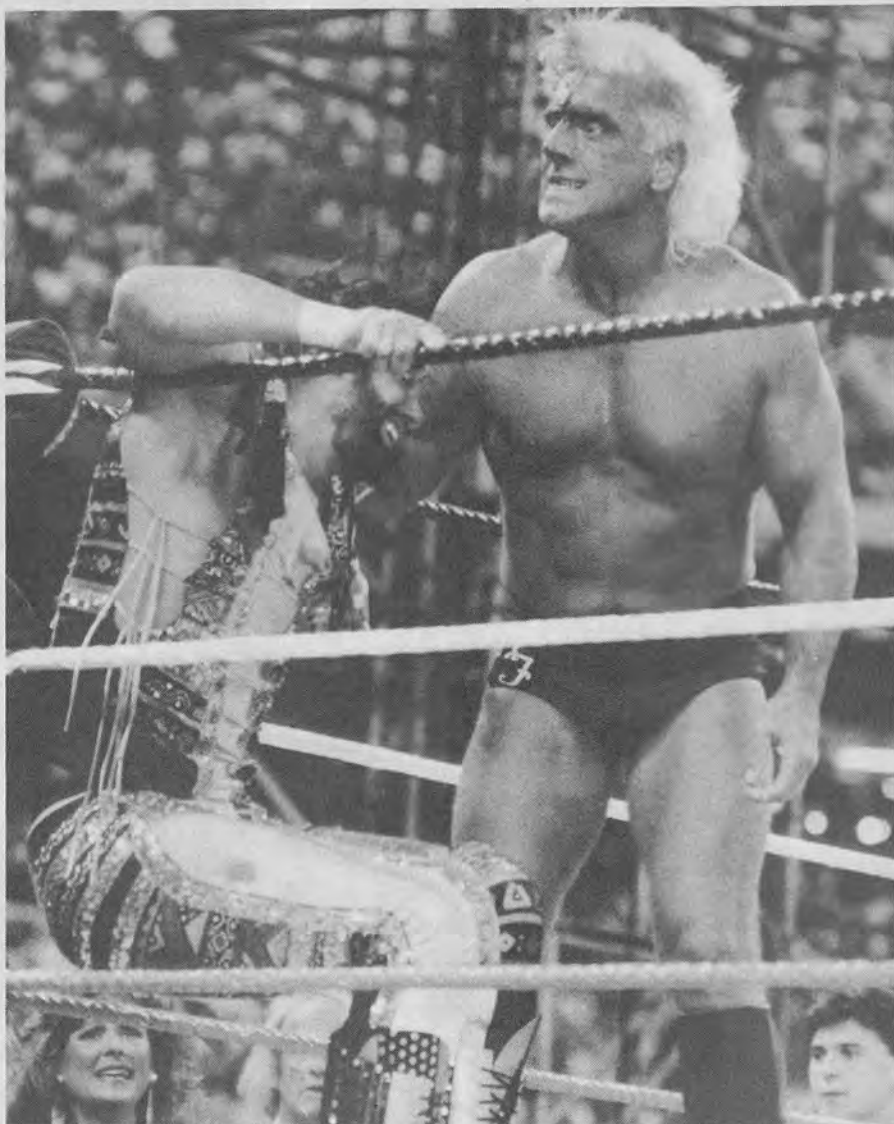
In the ring the next night, Flair would give detailed accounts of the "unbelievable" time he had with his opponent's woman. Often he would make the details up—often he didn't have to. Either way, the result was the same—his opponent would fly into a rage—and right into Flair's strategic web.

"Ric took a perverse thrill in watching them turn red with anger and then blue with pain," said his friend. "He'd say the more colors they turn, the better."

It seemed that with Randy Savage, Flair had picked an opponent he might transform into a rainbow. Savage needed little provocation to fly off the handle. His recent feud with Jake Roberts proved how sensitive—and vulnerable—he became when Elizabeth was attacked.

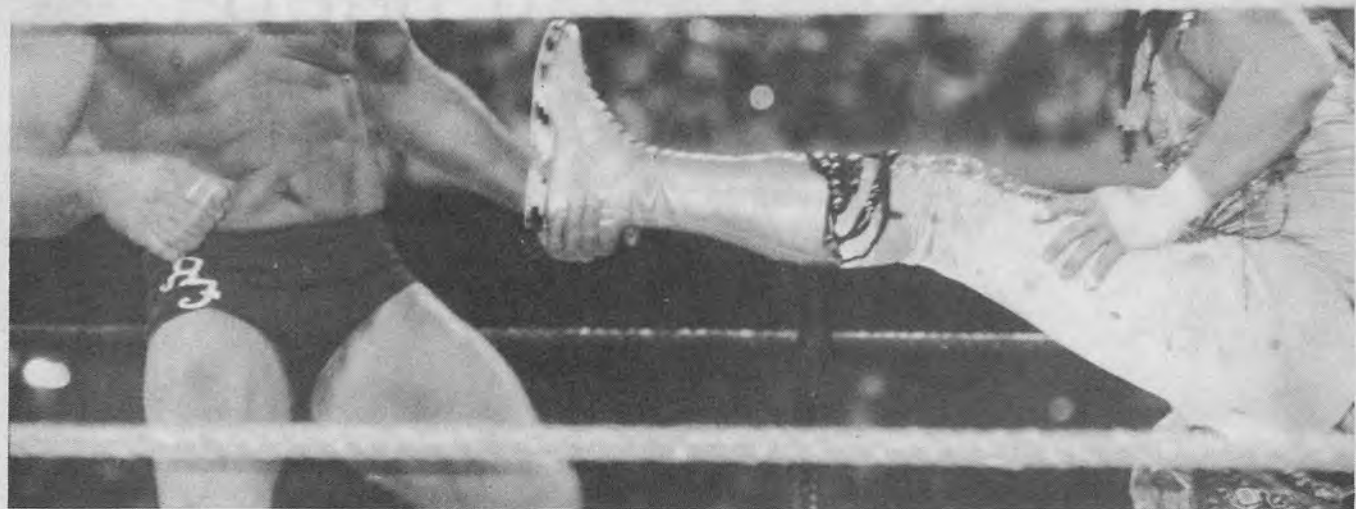
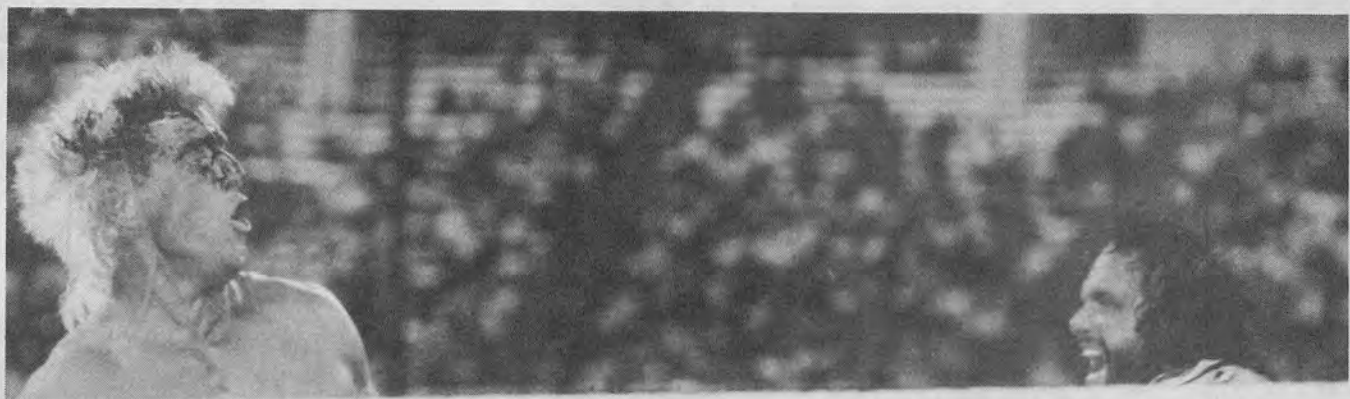
"How did Ric know he picked on the wrong man at the wrong time?" asks his friend.

For one, he could have listened to Hennig, who strongly recommended leaving Elizabeth alone. Hennig real-

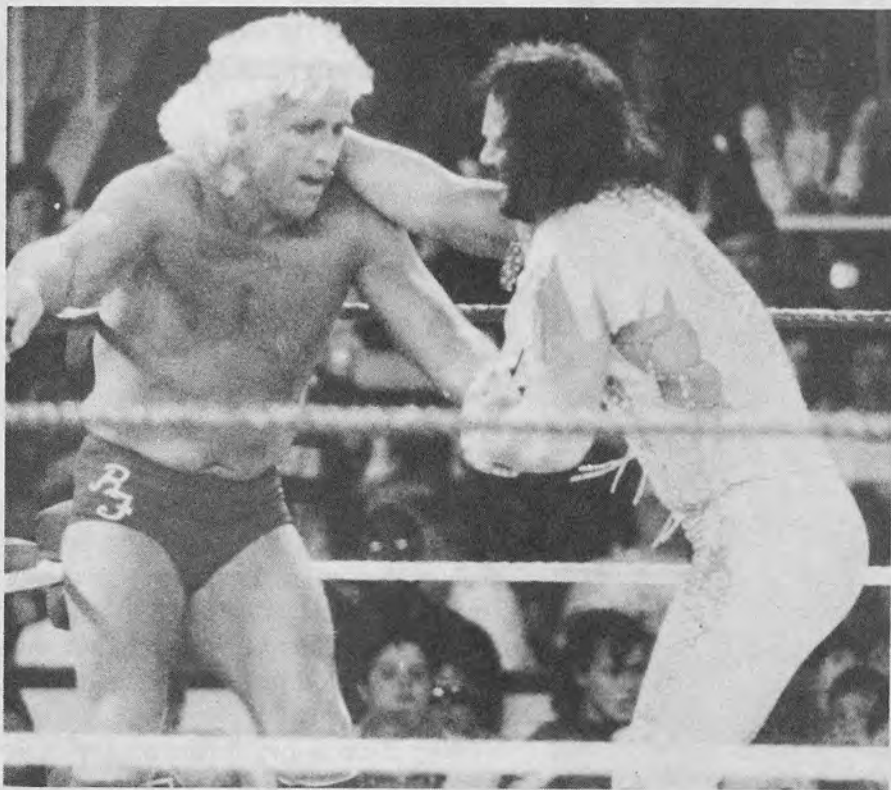


Elizabeth worried tremendously for her husband (above), but when he captured the World title, she didn't hesitate to climb into the ring (below).





Flair may stop Savage's kicks (above), but he can't stop his charge (below). When Flair kissed Elizabeth, he may have killed his chances for a second WWF World title.



ized that with a title on the line, Savage would better focus his rage than he had against Jake. But Flair wouldn't listen.

"Ric likes to hear people confirm his diagnosis," said one Flair critic. "He listened to Hennig when Hennig was telling him what he

wanted to hear. Once Hennig started disagreeing, Flair turned deaf."

And dumb. Stoking Savage's rage proved a fatal mistake for Ric Flair. Before he met Elizabeth, Savage was a loose cannon, tremendously skilled but unable to focus his energy. Elizabeth, first as his manager, then his love interest, and finally as his wife, was able to harness his formidable power and direct it. Against Flair at WrestleMania, that power had never been more directed.

Things are only going to get worse for Flair. It was the kiss—that kiss—at WrestleMania that now has Savage vowing to destroy Flair at any cost. Savage has even publicly stated that the WWF World title means less to him than crippling the man that dared to put his hands on Randy's wife.

All this has left Flair adrift in a federation that chews and spits its castoffs. For the man who declared himself the "real" world's champion before wrestling his first match, Flair must now discover how real a man he *really* is. □

"WHY DOESN'T B. BADD FEAR ME?"

Photos by Roy London

Creepy Cactus Jack makes everybody fearful. Everybody, that is, except for Johnny B. Badd. The "baaaaad" man from Georgia has a perpetual smile on his face that simply infuriates Jack. Keep on grinning, Johnny!

By Andy Rodriguez

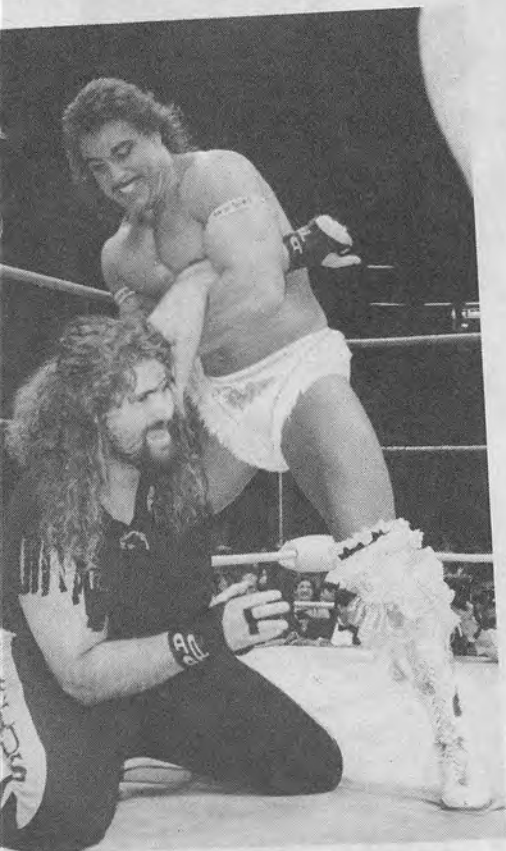
JOHNNY B. BADD doesn't just see wrestling as a sport. He sees it as a way to have some fun. While other men step through the ropes in singleminded pursuit of a victory, Badd makes his time in the ring a big party.

"Why have a big frown on my face all the time?" asked Badd. "I can't be worried about getting my nose broken or beaten up. Let the losers worry themselves about that. That definitely is not my problem!"

Cactus Jack has fun in the ring, too, if

FRUSTRATION:

JOHNNY



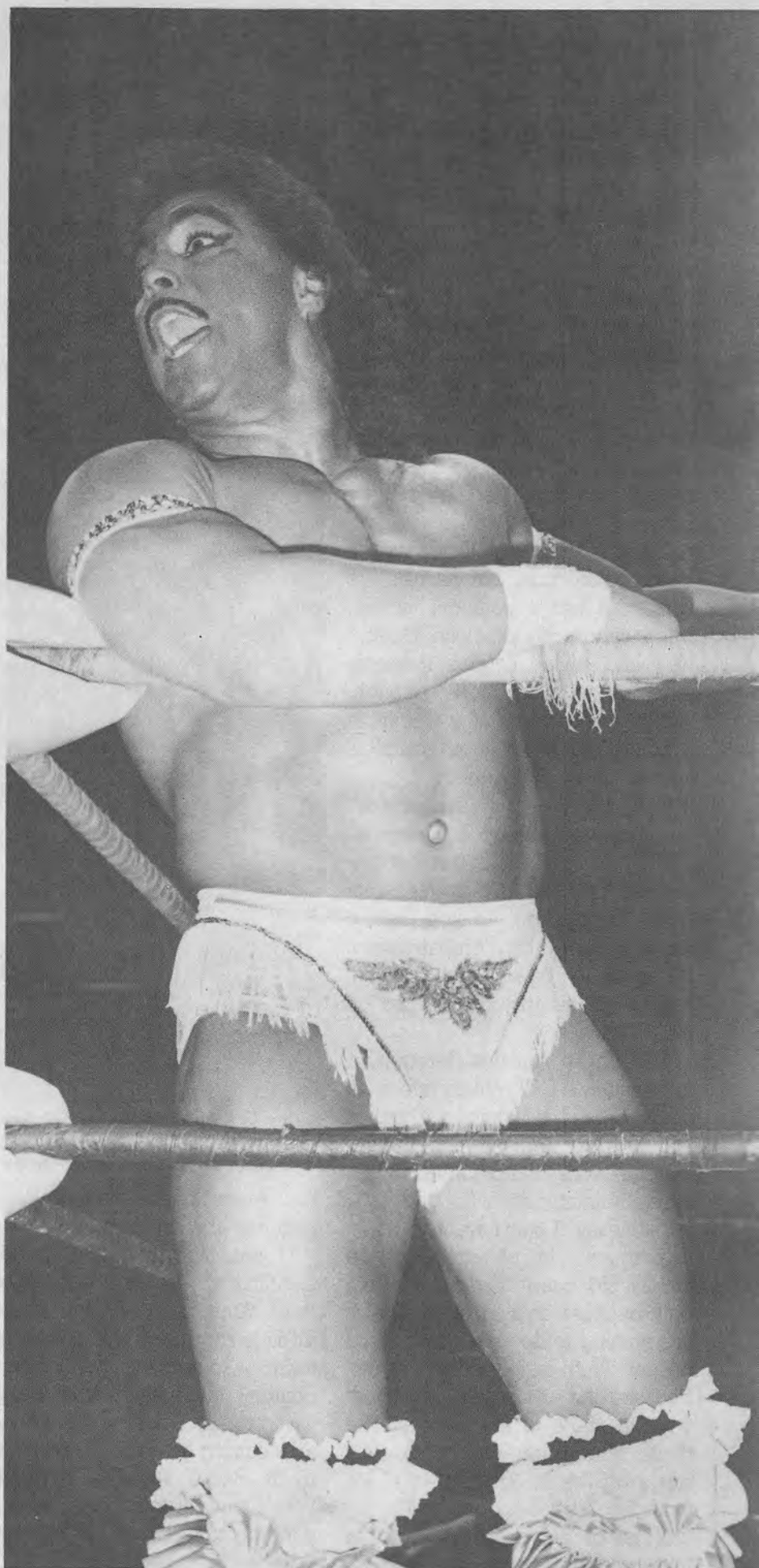
Cactus Jack (left) strikes fear in most opponents, but not Johnny B. Badd (right), who enjoys his battles with Jack (above).

your idea of fun is ripping bloody streaks into your opponent's forehead and making him cry out in pain. Jack's idea of what constitutes enjoyment also includes this very important component: Scare the hell out of your foe.

"If he's scared, he's less effective," said Jack. "It's that simple. I can't put it more plainly than that. When the guy steps through the ropes, I want him to feel like he's just met Freddie Krueger for the first time. Ha, ha! *That's* fun to me!"

It was this attitude Jack carried into his matchup recently with Badd at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey. So far, it has been the only match between them. But it has left Jack wondering.

"Why doesn't Johnny B. Badd fear me?" Jack called out to no one in particular in the crowded dressing room.



"What's the problem?" he asked a reporter who was walking by.

"What's the matter with this guy?" said Jack to a security guard who seemed frightened to be confronted.

In the other locker room, Badd was just as happy as Jack was perplexed.

"Yeah, it sure felt good laying a whipping on that animal!" Badd enthused. "You know, if I had a chance to do it all over again, I certainly would. The only bad thing was, I lost the match. Officially, that is. I may have lost in the record books, but everybody knows who really won."

There is the irony: Jack was the disappointed one, but he was the winner. It was a countout victory, but a victory nonetheless. Getting his hand raised in this instance, though, wasn't good enough. Which is precisely why Cactus is pushing WCW for more matches against Badd. A lot more.

"See, it's like this!" Cactus said. "If I let old Johnny B. keep on smiling, then he might get this crazy idea he's better than me. That might be hilarious to you, but to me it's more than embarrassing. It's an insult! It's a slap in the face! I can't let this guy go one up on me!"

Though he remains determined to win the WCW World title from Sting, Cactus is vowing to himself not to drop demands for the rematches with Badd. Johnny B. remains unintimidated.

"Honestly, I don't want to make a practice out of wrestling the smelly old coot," Badd said, "but only because he's so disgusting! It has nothing to do with being afraid of him. Truth is, he's afraid of *me*, because he doesn't quite know what to make of me. I'm not like those other men who practically run away at the sight of him. He can't faze me; nobody can!"

Other of Jack's opponents have noted that his frustration with Badd



Cactus Jack works on the neck of Johnny B. Badd. Smiles aside, Badd cannot take Jack lightly for one minute. The sadistic rulebreaker takes great pleasure in maiming his opponents and often isn't concerned with the outcome of the match, as long as he inflicts pain.

has even been evident in his matches against them.

"I was wrestling him in South Carolina a few days ago," noted Ron Simmons. "About halfway through the match, he started muttering something. At first, I couldn't understand what he was trying to say. Then, when we were in a clinch, he said, 'Stinkin' Johnny B. Badd! You like him? He's your friend?' I said, 'Man, what are you talking about?' It was sure strange."

"When you're in there with Jack," offered Sting, "you never know what to expect. He might start screaming at the top of his lungs, or worse. One thing you don't expect, though, is hearing him talk about another opponent. I was wrestling him a few weeks ago when he started muttering something about Badd. I didn't think much of it, then he did it again in another match. Johnny B.'s got him completely psyched-out."

Badd may have Cactus psyched-

out, but he's far from through with him. Unable to intimidate Badd on his own, Jack may request the help of some friends, like Abdullah the Butcher.

"And I'll tell you right now," offered Barry Windham, "I don't think Johnny would keep that smile on his face very long if he had to stand in here against Abby. You have to be totally focused on beating the Butcher. You can't be flitting around the ring tossing confetti. John may be a happy-go-lucky guy, but if he's too happy, he could get hurt bad."

Badd insists that not even the mighty Butcher can force him to change his upbeat demeanor.

"All you folks like to underestimate me," Badd said. "You look at me and think I'll fold up in no time flat. But I know how to handle myself. I was a champion boxer. There's absolutely no reason at all for me to fear Cactus or any other man. If Cactus felt the same way, he wouldn't even think of sending Abdullah after me. He'd step up himself."



Jack hurtles Badd into the corner. Unlike other wrestlers, Badd doesn't fear Cactus Jack. His attitude may have psyched out the rulebreaker, who has been talking to himself.

Now Cactus knows why Badd isn't afraid of him.

"I know it, so what?" Jack yelped. "That doesn't mean I'm giving up! I'm gonna make Johnny B. fear me! Real soon, I'll wipe that

smile off his face for good! It might take a month, it might take a year, but it *will* happen, mark my words!"

The words of a desperate man. □



Badd puts a stiff right foot to the face of Cactus Jack, who has been unable to intimidate the light heavyweight.

HOTSEAT

DUSTY WOLFE

"I'VE BEEN BEATEN UP BY THE BEST!"

SO YOU THINK pro wrestling is all bright lights, glamour, and riches? For some, such as World champions Sting and Randy Savage, that may be the case. But what about the men at the opposite end of the spectrum—the long-suffering preliminary wrestlers who sacrifice their bodies every time they step in the ring?

Veteran grappler Dusty Wolfe knows all about it. Card after card, he returns to his home in San Antonio, Texas, where he is awaited by his anxious family.

"Did you win this time, Dad?" his son Brett always asks.

Dusty (known in the WWF as Dale Wolfe) sometimes doesn't have to reply—the bandages and bruises do the talking. In his 10 years in the world's roughest sport, he's sustained hundreds of minor injuries and several major ones.

After tending to his wounds after a match, the 5'11", 228-pounder records the result of his night's work in a thick notebook. He claims to have a record of 427 wins and 1,603 losses—which means he loses about 80 percent of the time.

But name a federation, and Wolfe has wrestled there. Name a wrestler,

and Wolfe has competed against him. From *The Ultimate Warrior* to *Ray Odyssey*, Wolfe has taken on everyone he can find, in several countries around the world. He has earned respect as a dedicated member of the grappling fraternity—even if his record

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It's no fun getting battered by Papa Shango or Rick Rude—no fun at all.

”

leaves a bit to be desired.

Managing Editor Bob Smith sat down with Wolfe following an independent card in New Orleans recently to learn just why Dusty not only lives a life of losing—but loves it!

Q: Dusty, er, Dale . . . should I call you Dusty or Dale?

A: Dusty's cool. As long as you don't call me late for my match (laughs).

Q: You really mean that, don't you? As hard a career as you've had, you still enjoy getting in the ring and giving it your all. That's pretty remarkable.

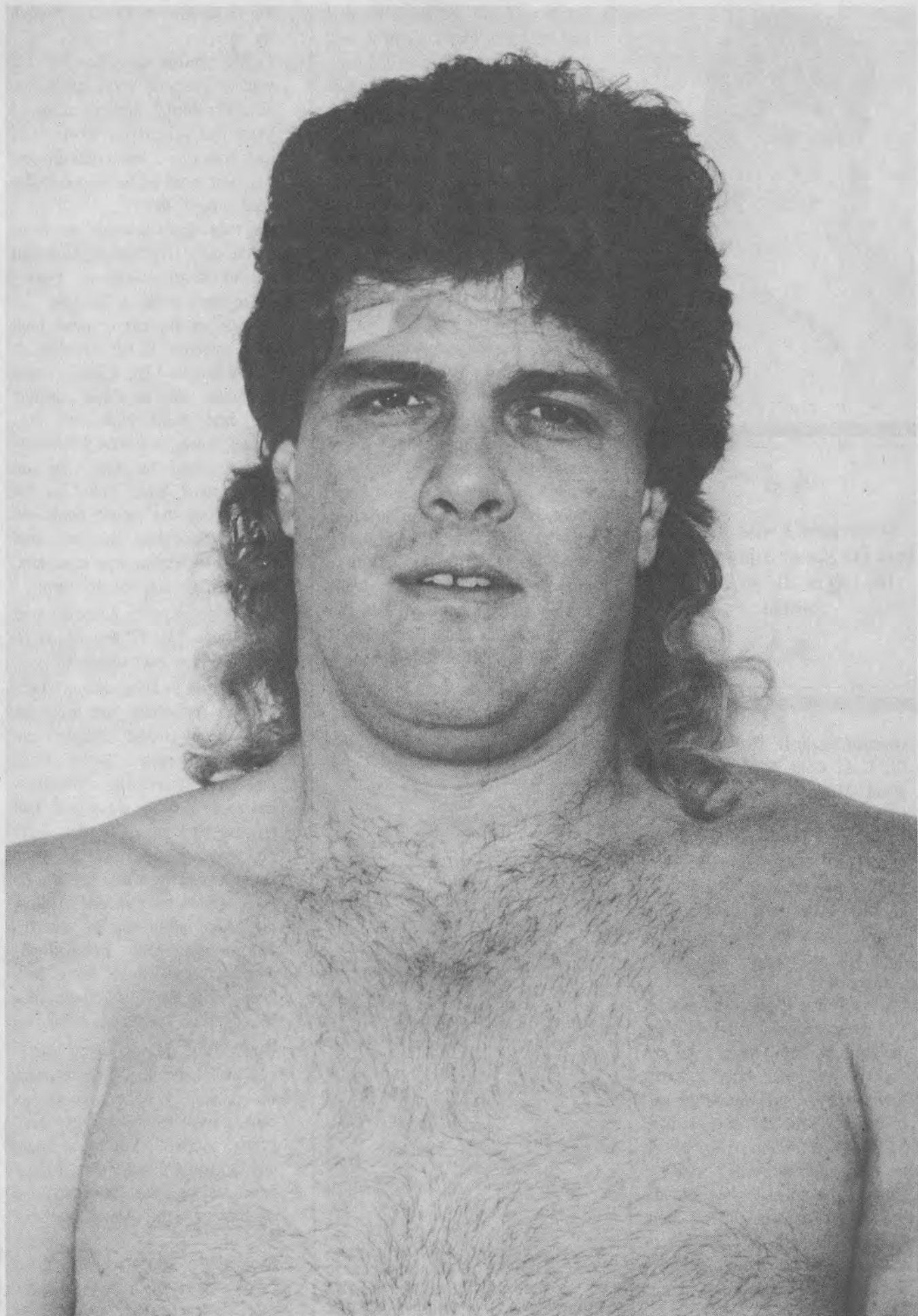
A: Well, that's me. I really love wrestling. When I was a kid growing up in Texas, it's all I ever wanted to do. Now that I've made it as a working professional, I really feel like I've accomplished a lot. I wouldn't trade places with anyone.

Q: Really? Even though most fans know you as a preliminary wrestler? Even though you hear catcalls like "scrub" and "bum" at the arenas?

A: True, it doesn't feel too good to have people think of you in less than flattering terms. But then again, I feel like I've made it. Ask the promoters. Whenever they need a wrestler for their cards, they always call on me. From the WWF all the way to the new National Wrestling Federation tonight, I'm ready and willing to compete. Just give me an opponent.

Q: How many top stars have you wrestled against during your career?

A: Are you kidding? Who haven't I





“

Sometimes I wish I were Hulk Hogan or Sting, right at the top of the wrestling world.

”

wrestled against? I've wrestled in the U.S., Canada, Singapore, England, Mexico . . . so many countries. I've wrestled them all, Bob, all of 'em. I've wrestled Hulk Hogan, The Ultimate Warrior, Terry Funk, Dory Funk Jr., Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Jerry Lawler, Harley Race, and on and on . . .

Q: And you've *lost* to them all, I presume.

A: Uh, that's true. I guess you can say I've been beaten up by the best (*laughs*). But how many men can say they've done what I have? That list I just gave you is the best of the very best. The way I look at it, I may not always win, but at least I'm competitive. If I wasn't, I wouldn't be asked to step into the ring. Hey, I once got a two-count on Flair. I've got the videotape of that match at my house, and I re-play it all the time. Look at me, Ma! (*laughs*)

Q: But it isn't just the big-name stars that beat you, Dusty. Tonight, as a matter of fact, young Joey Maggs managed to pin you. Do you ever get the feeling that you're on a treadmill to nowhere?

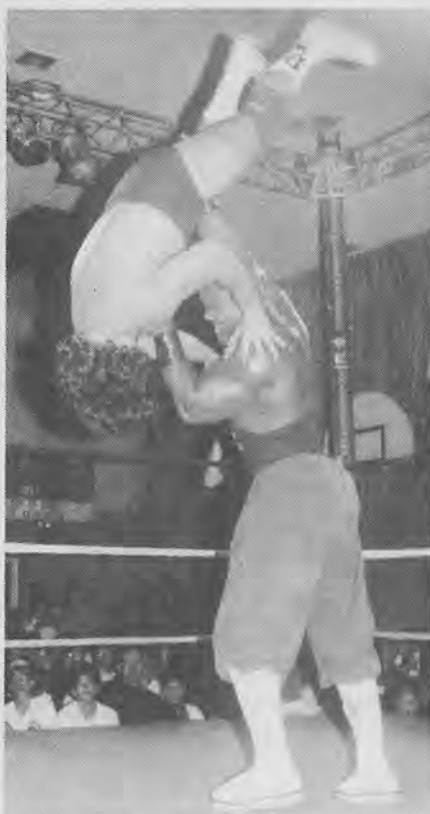
A: Can I ask you that same question?

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: Well, sometimes, don't you wish you were working for the *New York Times* or *Sports Illustrated*? Don't you often wish you were Bob Costas instead of Bob Smith?

Q: Sometimes, sure.

A: Exactly. Everyone feels that way. Everyone looks to the best in their profession. Sometimes I wish I was Hulk Hogan or Sting, right at the top of the wrestling world. I wish I knew the feeling of some gold around my waist, or to take home thousands of dollars for just one night's work. But I've found a niche, just like you have. You're known as a good writer and editor. I'm known as a good wrestler who may not be the biggest or strongest guy in the sport, but I *am* good.



Dusty Wolfe is tossed by IWCCW champion Tony Atlas. Besides the independent scene, Wolfe has tested his talents in the WWF, WWC, and leagues all over the world.

For right now, that's good enough for me.

Q: Earlier, you mentioned to me that you've compiled more than 400 victories during your career. I know that's the truth, because I've seen you win a few bouts in person. But what would you consider your *biggest* victory?

A: Oh, man, that's a tough one. Most of the guys I've beaten you might not of heard of—damn, even I never heard of them. Let's see . . . I think my favorite moment took place sometime in the early-'80s. It was in Kansas City, Kansas, where I teamed with big Mike George. We beat Scott Hall and Dan Spivey when they were known as The American Starship. Can you believe that? Sure, Mike got the pinfall, but the record book say that I helped beat two guys that went on to become true superstars. Now I'm waiting for my turn!

Q: You've got a pretty nasty cut over your right eye. What's the worst injury you've ever sustained?

A: Do we have to bring this up? Let's go over the whole bod here: See these front teeth? They're not mine, of course. Better living through dentistry. This right elbow has some floating chips in it that give me all kinds of trouble. I got my neck jammed pretty good about a year ago when The Undertaker blasted me with one of those tombstone piledrivers of his. It's *still* not right, really. I've had surgery to drain fluid from both knees. My back had some misplaced disks, I tore my bicep . . .

Q: Dusty, why are you doing this to yourself? I mean, you're obviously no millionaire, and you're not ranked anywhere. Why keep punishing yourself? You're a bright guy, and you're still young. I think you could be a success in any kind of business you wanted to be a part of.

A: Spoken like someone who's never been a part of a major league sport. You remember former Balti-



Wolfe, on the painful end of a piledriver from Don Muraco, has taken a tremendous amount of punishment over his career. But the pain will never drive him from the sport he loves.

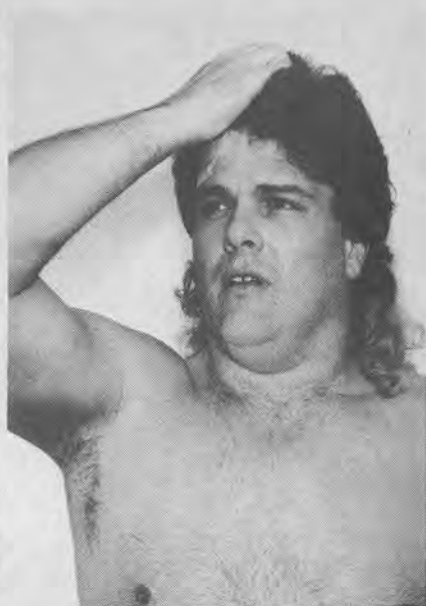
more Orioles pitcher Jim Palmer before the 1991 season? He had been elected to the Hall of Fame, but there was something that was driving him back to the game. So in spring training, he tried out for the team, and he almost made it. That's kind of the way I feel about my wrestling career. My family hates it when I come home from somewhere and I'm bandaged from head to foot. It's no fun getting battered by Papa Shango or Rick Rude—no fun at *all*. But to step into the ring against some of the greatest athletes in the world . . . you know what that means? That means I'm part of that fraternity. That means I've reached a very important level. I am a working professional athlete. How many people in this great country can make that claim?

Q: If you had your druthers, where would you compete the most? Do you prefer the WWF to IWCCW, or WCW to an independent league?

A: You know, that's one the great misconceptions about this sport. Pro wrestling is pro wrestling. Athletes go at it at the same level, whether it's in Madison Square Garden or in some high school gym in Oxnard. It's all about the same. I hate to give such a mundane response, but that's a fact. Sure, a federation such as the WWF has more talent—a just *amazing* amount of talent—but that's to be expected.

Q: What current pro stars do you admire the most?

A: Are you kidding? What pro wrestler doesn't look up to Hulk Hogan? Ric Flair is the thinking



“

The way I look at it, I may not always win, but at least I'm competitive.

”

man's champion, a true legend. I think Randy Savage and Sting are great, too. Lately, though, I've been keeping my eye on Barry Horowitz. That's quite a story there. He struggled through preliminary matches for years, but recently he became Global light heavyweight champion twice. That's what I am hoping happens to my career. With each match, I gain experience and confidence. I'm just looking for that one big win.

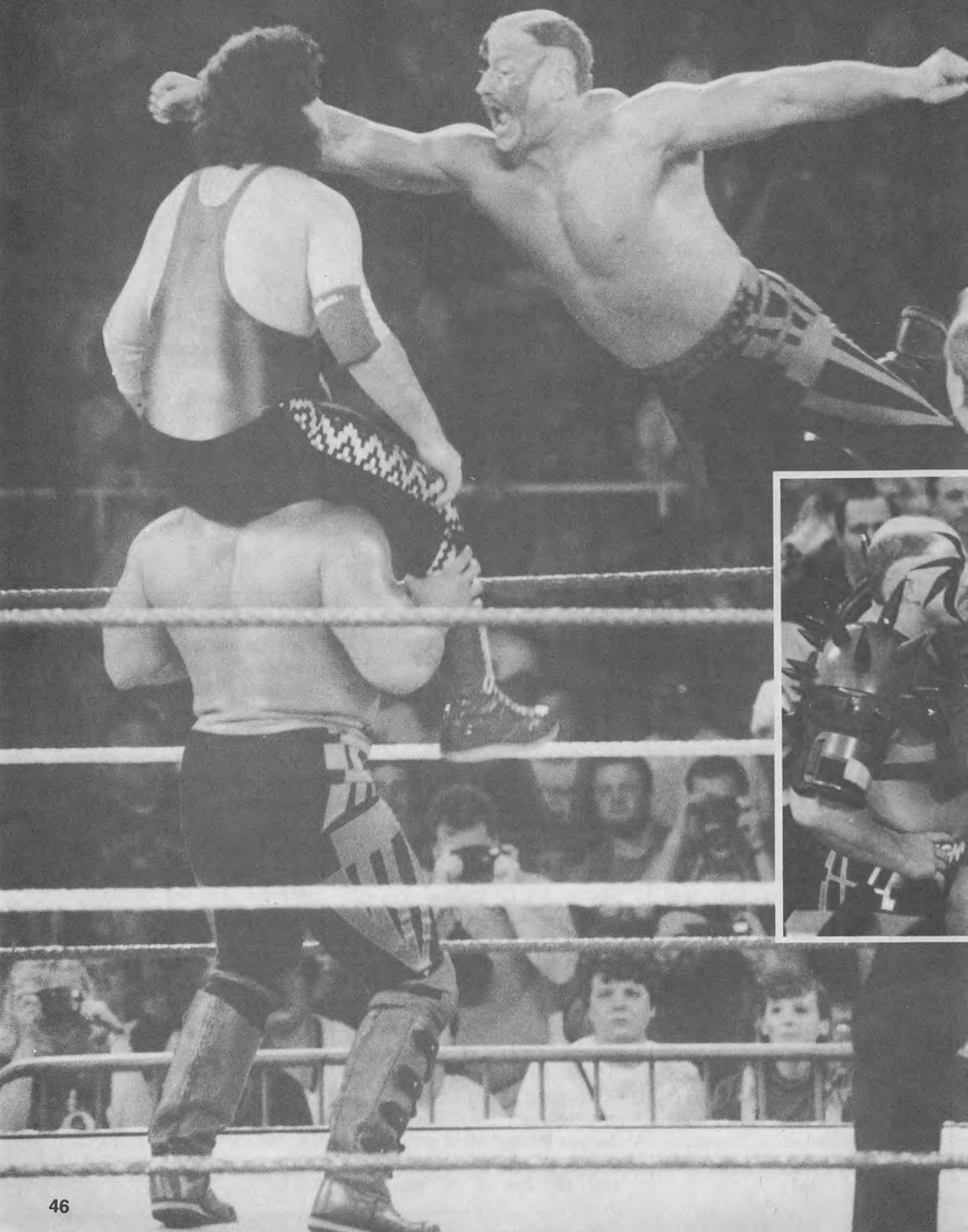
Q: Do you ever fear that the “big win” may never come?

A: Oh, you *can't* think that way. I'd be cheating myself and my family if I ever gave in to fear. No, my big break is coming soon—*real* soon. Just wait and see.

Q: I just hope that break doesn't happen to an arm or leg, Dusty.

A: Oh, man, that's cold! I thought you were an objective journalist!

Q: Just kidding. □



CAN PAUL ELLERING MAKE ROAD WARRIORS OUT OF THE LEGION OF DOOM?

Since losing the World tag title, The Legion of Doom hasn't been flying high (left). Former manager Paul Ellering (below, with glasses) may be the one to restore them to greatness.

By Andy Rodriguez

THIS STORY REALLY begins in the summer of 1990, when The Road Warriors, universally

recognized as the most dominant tag team of the 1980s, decided to leave WCW for the WWF, the only federation in which they had never won a World tag team title.

Their manager, Paul Ellering, had a tough decision to make. For months, he had been letting on to colleagues that he was getting tired of the wrestling scene. He had the unconventional dream of becoming a sled dog racer. Should he try to fulfill this crazy desire of his, or help Hawk and Animal achieve tag team immortality?

Once Ellering made his decision, he had no regrets. He would chase his dream. It was goodbye to The Road Warriors. "The boys can make it on their own," he confided to a friend. "They accomplished more on their own than they realize. They'll be just fine."

Many experts had their doubts.



For seven years, The Road Warriors were the most feared tag team in wrestling and Paul Ellering was their manager. Without him, they were able to capture the WWF World tag team title. But they lost their fire and their title, and now it's Ellering's job to help them become a raging inferno once again



Ellering, who managed The Road Warriors to the AWA tag title in 1984, attacks Jim Brunzell during a title defense. He has not resorted to interference since his return as manager to Hawk and Animal, dressing more conservatively and offering sage advice (bottom).

To them, Ellering had been more than a manager to the Warriors. He had been their mentor, their motivator. He had driven them to unheard-of achievements.

"The Road Warriors without Paul Ellering," Gordon Solie once said, "is like an orange without the juice. He defines who and what they are."

Undaunted by the criticism (when had it ever bothered them?), Hawk and Animal began the quest for a third World tag team title. Calling themselves The Legion of Doom—the distinction given to them by Ellering—they met and turned back every significant challenge they faced. At SummerSlam '91, the Legion reached their goal, defeating The Nasty Boys to win the WWF World tag belts. They became the first team to capture World tag team championships in three different major organizations.

And they did it without Ellering.

That was the sweetest part, doing it without their old manager in their corner. Finally, it seemed, they had silenced the critics. The team of the '80s had become the team of the ages.

Then what was expected to be a long title reign was ended by a

controversial loss to Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster. A team with hardly any experience together had defeated the mighty Legion of Doom.

"That loss was a stunner," offered one Legion training partner. "Hawk and Animal thought they'd hold those belts forever. Maybe they could've taken it better had an established team like the Nastys or The Natural Disasters

beaten them, but this was something else."

Suddenly, the Legion was a team without purpose. They didn't know whether to go after DiBiase and Schyster or the Disasters, whose interference led to their loss. It appeared as though they might become just another WWF tag team searching for a title shot.

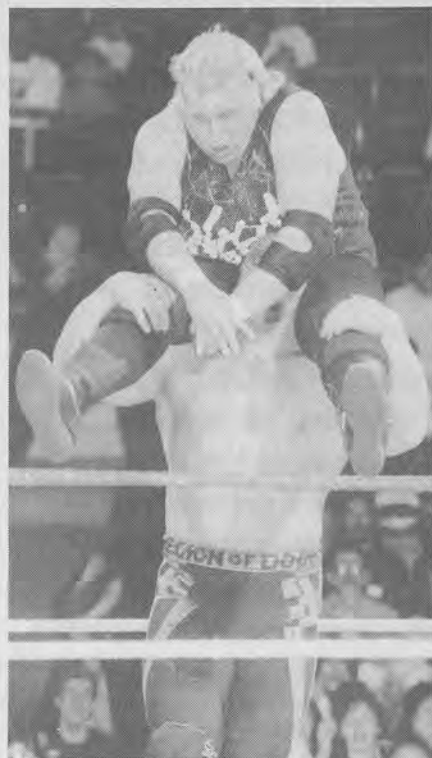
Re-enter Paul Ellering.

It's not clear yet whether Ellering called his former charges or if they called him, but that isn't important. Ellering and the Legion are together again. For them—and for the rest of the WWF—that is all that matters.

In his reappearance with Hawk and Animal at WrestleMania VIII, Ellering called himself the "bad apple," asserting he was the missing ingredient that would make the team great again. Was he signaling a turn back toward rulebreaking?

"Not necessarily," said former superstar Greg Gagne, who saw Ellering's methods up close when the Warriors competed in the AWA. "Paul may just be trying to add a little more nastiness to





Already among the top tag teams in history, Hawk and Animal have shown a renewed spirit since Ellering's return.

Hawk and Animal's style. On the other hand, he may really mean what he says. He may think the only way for them to get those belts back is to be as vicious as they were in their heyday in the AWA. With Ellering, you're never really quite sure what he's thinking.

"I haven't spoken with Paul on this," Gagne continued, "but I have a feeling that what he's trying to do is get them to wrestle the way they did when he first founded them back in '83. The boys back then were an amazing team; believe me, I saw many of their early matches. Men actually were afraid to wrestle them. If Ellering can turn the trick of getting them to think, in a sense, that it's 1984 again, then Hawk and Animal would be hard to bet against."

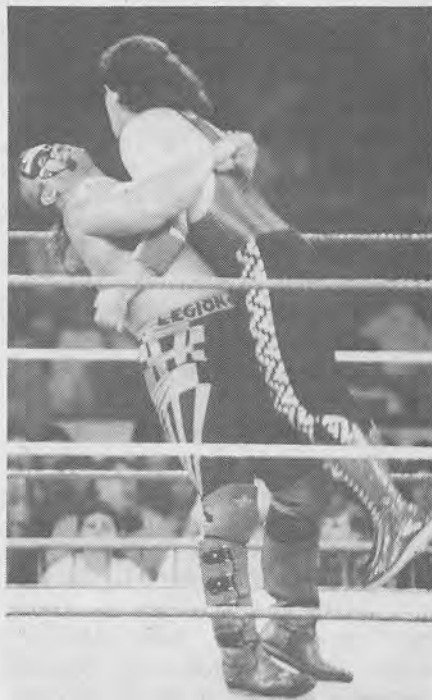
The sport has changed dramatically, though, in the nine years since the Legion appeared on the scene. Back then, Hawk and Animal were a uniquely powerful team. No two men matched their

size and speed. Today, there are many teams who look and wrestle like they do. Which means, of course, there are fewer duos who fear them.

Ellering surely knows all this; after all, he's one of the most intelligent men in the sport today. Given a few weeks to scout the Legion's competition firsthand, he should be able to devise a suitable game plan.

"I think Ellering will succeed for this reason," offered former managerial colleague Paul Jones, who once led The Powers of Pain into a brutal feud against Ellering and his charges. "He knows what makes Hawk and Animal tick. He knows exactly the right buttons to push. That's something you don't forget, even after all the time he's been away. Match strategy is not nearly as important as making those guys think they're unbeatable."

There are two ways Ellering can succeed. One is obvious: Lead the Legion to a second WWF World tag team title. The



second may be even more difficult: Make them feared again.

Make every other team in the WWF seriously consider not facing them in the ring.

Make them want to humiliate their opponents as well as defeat them.

Make The Legion of Doom Road Warriors again. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

MISSY HYATT AND Madusa Miceli are both blonde and beautiful, and that's where the similarities end. The two most visible women in WCW carry a mortal contempt for each other that has existed ever since they have shared the spotlight.

Missy is the consummate television hostess—gorgeous, curvaceous, camera-friendly. Her nails are immaculate and not a hair is out of place. She could be arrested for impersonating a Barbie doll.

Madusa is the prototypical female wrestler. A champion in America and Japan, she is athletically alluring, a lethal combination of brawn and beauty. She is a martial arts master with a devious mind. She could be arrested for impersonating Sarah Connor in *Terminator 2*.

When Madusa joined The Dangerous Alliance as "director of covert operations," she dubbed herself "The First Lady Of WCW." This infuriated Missy, who had used her role as commentator to build her popularity among wrestling fans. A war of words began between the two. Madusa thought of Missy as nothing more than a plaything designed to boost TV ratings. Missy perceived Madusa's athleticism as borderline masculinity.

Missy's place in wrestling had been challenged before—by Madusa's boss, Paul E. Dangerously. The two met in a series of arm-wrestling competitions, most of which Missy won when she blinded Dangerously with hair spray.

Now she is being challenged again—by Madusa. Displaying her underrated intelligence, Missy would not agree to a wrestling match. Instead, the two will

ONE ON ONE



"You haven't cornered the market on beauty, you half-wit hussy. You'll see how much woman I am at Beach Blast."

—Madusa

square off in, of all things, a bikini contest. The two will pose for the "First Lady Of WCW" title on June 20 at the Beach Blast in Mobile, Alabama. But before you get an eyeful, we give you an earful, as the two meet here . . . "One On One."

MISSY HYATT:

Why are you calling me? I'm very busy, and I certainly don't have any time for you.

MADUSA MICELI:

Oh really? Is that why you waste all that space talking about me in your column in *WCW Magazine*? Face it, Hyatt—you can't stand the fact

that I get more attention than you do. And about that column—which one of those scribes in New York is your editorial janitor? Craig Peters? Stu Saks?

MH: For your information, I write it myself and it is rarely edited. After all, it's "Missy's View." As a journalist, I . . .

MM: A journalist?! A journalist?! You're a bimbo with a microphone!

MH: At least I'm not a tomboy. Tell me, Madusa, what's it like to be one of the guys?

MM: It's great, because all the guys

N ONE



"What makes you think you have any chance of defeating me in a posedown? All you have is a body. I have a figure."

—Missy Hyatt

treat me with respect. I'm nobody's plaything, which is far more than you can say. The last time I checked, you were a charter member of the Boy-friend-of-the-Month club. Who's your fiancé this week?

MH: At least I *have* a boyfriend. I think you became a valet because interfering in matches is the only possible way for you to have physical contact from a man.

MM: I'm not a valet. Valets park cars. Valets cater to their superiors. That stuff is more your speed. I'm "director of covert

operations" for The Dangerous Alliance, a job that requires intelligence and organizational skills, two areas in which you are sorely lacking.

MH: Well, I can think of two areas in which *you* are sorely lacking, and that will be pretty evident at the bikini contest. What makes you think that you have any chance of defeating me in a posedown? All you have is a body. I have a *figure*.

MM: When this is all over, you'll be *disfigured*. When are you going to stop hiding behind your microphone and accept my chal-

lenge to meet in the ring? That'll prove who's the *real* "First Lady Of WCW."

MH: I've already proved myself in the ring. Just ask your snake-in-the-grass boss, Paul E. Dangerously. Ask him what it was like to lose an arm-wrestling match to a woman. And while you're at it, ask Ted Turner—yes, *that* Ted Turner—who he thinks the "First Lady Of WCW" is.

MM: That's exactly my point. You think being a woman is a built-in excuse for being weak, and you always need a man's approval. Men don't have a monopoly on smarts or muscles or toughness. Women can be just as physical as men. Ask Arachnaman. I karate-kicked him right out of the federation. Why don't you invite Brian Pillman on your next TV show and ask him why he hasn't responded to my challenge?

MH: Brian Pillman is too busy defending his light heavyweight title against men to be concerned with a gym rat like you. And as far as being tough is concerned, why don't you try being a woman for about five minutes? Who knows? You might like it.

MM: You haven't cornered the market on beauty, you half-wit husky. You'll see how much woman I am at the Beach Blast. I can fill a bikini with the best of them. And if charisma and personality are part of the contest, then you don't stand a snowball's chance in hell. You've got about as much personality as a turnbuckle.

MH: Are you kidding? I have a 1973 Volkswagen parked in my garage that has a better body than you. I'm surprised you even *own* a bikini. I thought you would show up in overalls and I would win on forfeit. But I guess I'll just have to embarrass you in front of everyone in WCW and all the fans watching on pay-per-view. The camera doesn't lie, tough girl.

MM: You know, for the good of humanity, I have to win this contest.

MH: The good of humanity? How do you figure?

MM: Because if a bleached-blonde bimbo boy toy like you wins it, women's lib will be set back 100 years! □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

REPO REPORT

I disagree with Andy Rodriguez' article on Repo Man in the May 1992 issue ("Repo Man: The Only Thing He'll Never Take Is A Title!"). A lot of people seem to be down on Repo Man, but let's look at the facts. Granted, when Demolition disbanded, Smash floundered in the WWF, being stuck in preliminary matches and losing to lesser opponents. But when he became Repo Man, that competitive spark returned, and now he's back in the WWF spotlight.

Repo Man is a tremendous athlete and should not be overlooked by fans

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Repo Man chokes Virgil during their prolonged feud. The masked repossessor is a superb athlete whose talents should not be overlooked, according to reader Jim Imbruglia.

and critics alike. I would not be surprised to see him win a belt soon.

JIM IMBRUGLIA
Medford, MA

REALLY BIG SHOW

I just finished watching WrestleMania VIII, and it was absolutely amazing. I was very surprised by the appearance of The Legion of Doom, once again with Paul Ellering. The Roddy Piper-Bret Hart match will long be remembered as a classic. The Randy-Savage-Ric Flair bout was one of the most exciting I've seen in a long time.

But the highlight of the event had to be the reappearance of The Ultimate Warrior. The world of wrestling may have lost Lex Luger, but at least we've got the Warrior back. Good job, WWF. You always keep fans guessing!

DAVID WALLACE
Ocala, FL

BIGGER, NOT BETTER

Harley Race has assembled a thousand-pound stable ("A Half-Ton Of Holy Hell: Harley Race Forms His Own Dangerous Alliance," June 1992),

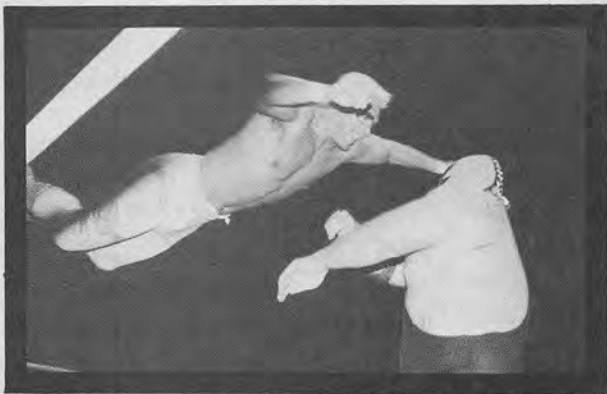
(Continued on page 54)

THIS MONTH IN...

THE Wrestler



THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR:
WrestleMania's accidental hero!



How fragile is **STING'S** title reign?

PLUS . . .

THE UNDERTAKER pays his last disrespects to **JAKE ROBERTS** . . . Another partner betrayed: No one is safe around **D.C. DRAKE!** . . . Find out why bunkhouse brawls are too dangerous for **THE DANGEROUS ALLIANCE** . . . A raucous "Q & A" interview with ever-popular **JUNKYARD DOG**

All this—and much more . . .
in the August 1992 issue of
The Wrestler

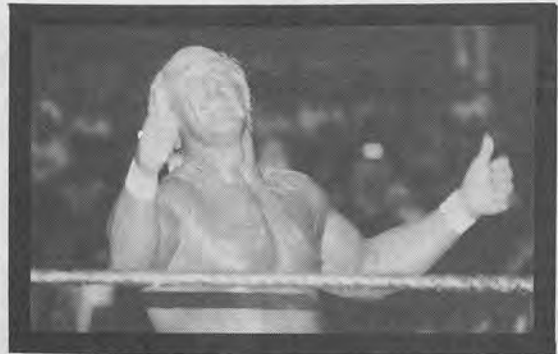
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All this—and much more . . .
in the special August 1992 issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

NOW ON SALE!

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)



As a member of Harley Race's "Half-Ton Of Holy Hell," Mr. Hughes is overweight and overrated, voices reader Joe Westbrooke.

and I think I've figured out why. Whenever one of them gets beaten in a match—and that's often—the other two are needed to help carry their defeated teammate back to the dressing room.

I will concede that Big Van Vader is a legitimate contender for the World title. But Mr. Hughes? And Vinnie Vegas? Get serious. Hughes is terribly out of shape, while Vegas has no ring skills whatsoever. They are nothing more than oversized goons.

Race may think he has put together a powerful stable. But he's going to need a lot of hay to feed them, and I don't ever see any one of them gracing the winner's circle.

JOE WESTBROOKE
Columbia, SC

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

When we are looking to cast blame as to why mainstream America doesn't fully accept the sport of wrestling, we can point the finger at writers like Eddie Ellner who make light of serious situations like Kerry Von Erich's drug

problem ("The Insider," June 1992).

Ellner advises Von Erich to invest in a small Texas federation, so he may stay in wrestling without enduring the rigors of the WWF. This stupidity suggests that perhaps Ellner has a drug problem as well.

Von Erich doesn't need a small federation. He needs a rehabilitation center. Anyone forging prescriptions is thoroughly addicted and on the brink of total collapse. The best thing that could happen to Von Erich is that he leave the sport for good and start living, instead of slowly killing himself. Unfortunately, that's not going to happen, since he recently returned to the WWF.

It's no wonder Ellner is a wrestling writer. In a sport where wrongdoing is swept under the rug, he is wielding the broom.

NANCY MAGRUDER
Columbus, OH

PRE-EMPTED

I may be writing this letter to the wrong place, but I figure that I can reach more true wrestling fans this way. I turned on what I thought was going to be the one-hour Global Wrestling program on ESPN, and instead the network was televising the America's Cup.

First of all, anyone interested in yacht racing is rich enough to attend this event in person. The working class—which makes up a large percentage of ESPN's viewership—has absolutely no identification with yachting.

Second of all, this event really doesn't work on television, because the moving object is too big and doesn't appear to be moving. It's kind of like watching the minute hand on Big Ben.

I urge all wrestling fans to write to ESPN and ask them to restore their afternoon wrestling program on a regular basis.

SUZANNE LISANDRO
Hoboken, NJ



After forging prescriptions, Kerry Von Erich belongs in a rehabilitation center, not a wrestling ring, says reader Nancy Magruder.

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



Paul Ellering's return may give The Legion of Doom a much-needed boost, but will he really make a difference in the long run?

continental title, and a manager in the NWA when he and Manny Fernandez won the World tag title. But in all three cases, Rude's manager led to his downfall.

Now in WCW, Rude still has a manager, Paul E. Dangerously, but he has an agreement with the "Psycho Yuppie" that limits his traditional managerial input. Rude apparently doesn't want to lose a title *because* of his manager again.

"I don't need anyone to make me a success, but a manager takes care of the little things in life and that lets me live the life I want to lead," Rude said. "But does a manager have anything to do with how I wrestle? No way. It's all me in there."

Maybe Rude isn't a good example because he's so arrogant. Rude would never defer credit for his success. And there's no doubt that interference by The Dangerous Alliance has greatly helped

Rude.

Randy Savage has had two managers during his WWF career. The first, Elizabeth, was there when Savage won the I-C title and the World title. The second, Sensational Sherri, came along after Savage lost the World title. With Sherri at his side, Savage went into the longest slump of his career. Now, without a manager but with the love of Elizabeth, Savage is World champion.

Capt. Lou Albano has managed more WWF World tag team champions than any other man in history, but even he downplays his role.

"I had great teams and I was a great manager, but if they didn't have the ability, it would've meant nothing," Albano said. "I can't go in there and wrestle for them and I can't tell them what to do. I could only make suggestions and then they had to decide whether to listen to me."

Rick Steiner has flourished since breaking out from Kevin

Sullivan's influence. WCW World champion Sting doesn't have a manager. Neither does Savage. But USWA champ Kamala has a manager (or handler) in Friday.

Hulk Hogan is a good example. He was led on an evil path by such men as Jimmy Hart and Freddie Blassie. When he turned good, many people expected him to sign with Arnold Skaaland, the man credited with much of the success of Hogan's WWF World title predecessors Bruno Sammartino and Bob Backlund. Hogan chose to go it alone.

Ric Flair won seven NWA/WCW World titles, mostly without managerial supervision. Later in his career, though, he came to lean heavily on the contributions of J.J. Dillon and The Four Horsemen. When he came to the WWF, he quickly hired Bobby Heenan and Curt Hennig and he captured the WWF World title. But now that he has lost the WWF World title, there are rumblings that he is about to dump them both.

Perhaps the question should be: Who needs a manager? Sting has an answer for that.

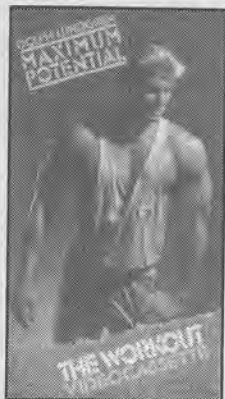
"Managers interfere and do everything possible to make sure their men don't lose a match," Sting said. "If you want to cheat your way to victory, a manager's a good way to go. If you have confidence in your abilities and think you can get by on your own, then you don't need a manager. I don't want to explain the reasons for my success. I want the reasons to be obvious: my God-given ability."

With that in mind, The Legion of Doom can do without Ellering. Ellering has always taken credit for harnessing their great power, but I think Animal and Hawk are much more dangerous when they're not under control.

Maybe Ellering isn't the "bad apple." Maybe he's just the worm. ☐

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

now as he was when he injured his knee," says former pro wrestling trainer Dr. Wilhelm R. Jones, now retired. "Floating ribs can puncture lungs if they don't properly heal. If they don't set right, he may be facing more problems than he can imagine."

Sting is lucky not to have a cracked *title*. Vader needed only to lay a finger on the helpless champ to claim the WCW belt, but instead decided to push referee Mike Adkins around, an act that earned him a hasty disqualification—too hasty, according to Vader's manager, Harley Race.

"The ref knew Sting was a sit-

ting duck," said Race. "He had orders to get him safely out of the ring. Are you expected me to believe that WCW wanted its most popular wrestler to be permanently crippled? No way.

"Well, we don't care. Vader would rather take Sting's belt when he's at full strength. He doesn't want there to be any excuses."

Sting sees the decision differently.

"The match was a valuable training tool," he said, wincing in pain. "I learned two things. First of all, I learned Vader can be had. During the match, I sensed many

openings and opportunities that I hadn't discovered before. I thought I would have to change my style to counter his bulk, but that's not the case. His style is perfectly suited for mine. He is one giant flaw waiting to be exploited.

"The second thing is, he isn't very smart. I was helpless on the mat and he couldn't pin me. His attitude, his arrogance . . . that's a big weakness. I may be injured, but I am still champion. And he has lost his luster of invincibility. It was worth a few cracked ribs."

Have we answered the essential question? Sting says he is the "healthiest wrestler out there." Dr. Jones agrees that Sting, "his current condition notwithstanding, is an outstanding and resilient physical specimen."

Until proven otherwise, Sting remains a little bruised and banged up—but still the main man in WCW.

NEWS ITEM: EDDIE ELLNER IS AN IDIOT

Actually, that's *old* news. I'm used to Ellner's poisoned attacks on my journalistic skills. But when he accuses me of having a "thing" for Roddy Piper, as he does in his column this month, he leaves himself exposed and naked.

I refer everyone's attention to the April 1986 "The Insider" column, in which Ellner challenges Randy Savage to a match for the hand of his manager, Miss Elizabeth. Ellner cries his pathetic love song for all the world to hear. What kind of journalistic standards are those?

People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. People with glass brains should be *especially* careful. □



Sting may have been hurt by Vader's brute strength, but the champion said he discovered weaknesses in Vader's ring strategy during the fateful match. When Sting returns, expect him to go right after the rulebreaker with newfound energy.

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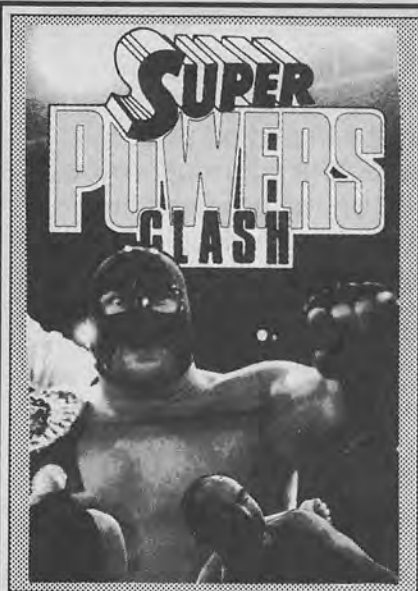
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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



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sional halls. The argument, a compelling one, is that legalizing narcotics and putting them under government supervision would remove the profit motive and eliminate the crime they create, crime that already overwhelms our cities.

Perhaps we can get this legislation passed as well: I propose to legalize all foreign objects and make outside interference allowable. Hell, eliminate *all* rules while we're at it. This will restore some consistency to the ring, because let's face it: Today's wrestling is about stealth, not skill.

Take the WrestleMania VIII main event: Randy Savage vs. Ric Flair. A matchup featuring two of the world's most talented and electrifying wrestlers. What happened? Flair and Curt Hennig spent most of the time rulebreaking their way to an advantage, only to have Savage rebound and

win by illegally grabbing hold of Flair's trunks for leverage.

In WCW, Paul E. Dangerously saves his tag team title with a cellular phone. USWA manager Richard Lee saves The Moondogs with a bag of powder.

Honest rulebreaking, never a contradiction in terms to those who truly understood the sport, is a thing of the past. Today, a guy with a charge account at a hardware store stands as good a chance of winning a title as anyone else.

Why pay lip service to a bunch of unenforced—or worse—selectively enforced rules? Throw the damned rulebook out before someone uses it as a foreign object.

NEWS ITEM: BEVERLY BROTHERS ISSUE CHALLENGE TO LEGION OF DOOM

This is known as Post-Wrestle-



The Beverly Brothers are being challenged by The Legion of Doom. If Hawk and Animal are serious about regaining the title, they need tougher competition.

Mania Depression, an illness that afflicts promoters following a major pay-per-view wrestling card. It causes otherwise rational men to pair the first names that come to mind in the hopes of generating a ticket-buying feud. It could just as easily have been Sid Justice vs. Tito Santana or Sting vs. Bill Apter.

That the LOD is even paying attention to the Beverlys says something about the sorry competitive state of WWF tag team wrestling. With Paul Ellering back in control, LOD needs real challenges—or else Ellering may take them overseas, where men like Terry Gordy, Stan Hansen, Steve Williams, and Bam Bam Bigelow still wrestle the old-fashioned way.

NEWS ITEM: THE WAR OF THE POSES

The Ultimate Warrior has returned. Rick "The Model" Martel shakes his little tush on the ringwalk. Bret Hart "James Dean's" his way to the ring, leaving a trail of panting teenagers in his wake. Hulk Hogan can be counted on for guest posedowns until his tan fades. I asked an expert, fashion writer Contessa De Melanique, if any of these men had any *real* model potential.

"Pro wrestlers are too egocentric to be good fashion models," she said. "Models must accentuate, not overwhelm the clothes they wear. However, I was invited to a dressing room not too long ago and met a man who calls himself The Patriot. He was something! Tremendous physique, terrifically good looking—a real presence that I told him would guarantee success in the modeling field.

"What strange people they are, though. He made me promise not to tell anyone what he looked like! He said he usually wears a mask when he competes. And they say *models* are silly!"

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The Sheik vs. Mark Lewin
Bonus interview: Wild Red Berry & The Fabulous Kangaroos

Vol. 2



Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James
Antonino Rocca vs. Johnny Valentine
6-Man Tag Team Match:
The Fabulous Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricki Starr
Killer Kowalski vs. Edouard Carpentier
Haystacks Calhoun vs. Killer Brooks

Vol. 3



6-Man Tag Team Match — 2 out of 3 falls:
Buddy Rogers, Handsome Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice vs. Bobo Brazil, "Calypso Kid" Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas
Tolos Brothers vs. Bob Nandor & Chet Wallick
Ed Carpentier vs. Skull Murphy
Yukon Eric vs. Fritz Von Erich
Bulldog Brower vs. Bearcat Wright

Vol. 4



The Fabulous Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & Mighty Atlas
Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt
Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez
Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys
Bobo Brazil vs. Ski Hi Lee

Vol. 5



The Sheik vs. Bobo Brazil
Antonino Rocca vs. Hans Schmidt
with special guest referee: Joe Louis
Wrestling Workouts
Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas vs. Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice
Gorgeous George vs. Ilio Dipaolo

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Mixed Tag Team — Heavyweights and Midgets:
Luis Martinez & Little Boy Blue vs. Beautiful Bruce & Sky Low Low
Steel Cage Match:
Randy Savage vs. Jerry "The King" Lawler
Female Midgets:
Princess Little Dove vs. Diamond Lil
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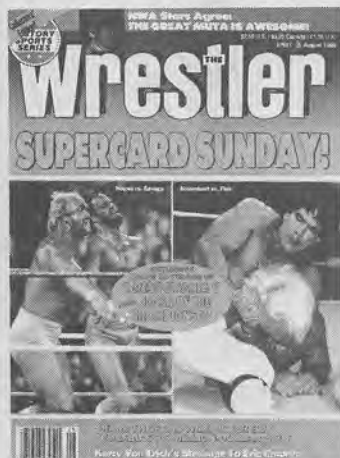
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◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #1

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◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #2

The March 1990 edition of *Inside Wrestling* is a collector's dream: A magnificent eight-page FULL-COLOR section highlights all the big events of the '80s! Plus, you get a dynamic and fast-paced year-by-year review of the decade. It's a magazine you'll cherish forever, truly a one-of-a-kind piece of wrestling history!

◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #3

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.



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CHRISTOPHER

(Continued from page 28)

ing Steele a motionless heap in the center of the ring.

Naturally, the fans aren't pleased with the outcome of the bout. But it's Christopher's postbout interview that truly angers viewers.

"I am the new breed in the USWA," Christopher claims. "Everybody else is a has-been or never-was. Jerry Lawler? He peaked in about 1976. Tom Prichard? I beat him up already. Jeff Jarrett? Tony Anthony? Don't make me laugh! It's time we got all these jerks out of here and let some talented athletes compete. And as everyone just saw, I am right at the top of that list."

"Punk! Punk!" the studio audience chants.

How right they are. Ever since his USWA debut in 1991, the 5'11", 230-pound Christopher has been gaining a reputation as a fine young competitor—and as one of the surliest men to compete in Memphis in years. After months of being a member of The New Kids with fellow rookie Tony Williams, Christopher inexplicably turned against his partner, battering Williams after the team lost a match in January.

"He's nothing more than a preliminary bum!" Christopher complained at the time. "I'm no prelim bum—I'm a champion in the making!"

Christopher went out and proved his ultra-confident words—with some help, that is. On February 10 in Memphis, he defeated Tom Prichard—aided by outside interference from then-rulebreaker Eric Embry—to win the Texas championship. On March 23, he blasted Jimmy Valiant with a chair to win the Southern belt and become a double-champion. Even though Prichard defeated Christopher to take the Southern belt on April 20, Christopher's big mouth

continues to make him a target.

"Man, I really hate that guy," said Prichard, not exactly a shrinking violet himself. "All he does is talk, and he's talking himself into a dangerous corner. He's been lucky so far, because Lawler and Jarrett have been busy taking on The Moondogs. But what will happen when *all* the fan favorites start going after this guy? He's not so big and tough. There will be nothing left of him but a vapor trail."

Christopher, however, doesn't worry about threats from his peers. He's too busy insulting the fans—and winning matches.

"I say what I want to say when I want to say it," Christopher said sternly. "What other people think doesn't matter. I couldn't care less! Just bring out the opponents, and I'll beat them all."

Not every USWA star thinks Christopher is wrong. In fact, he's gained many admirers among the rulebreakers.

"Hey, if it works for him, why should he change?" said Moondogs manager Richard Lee. "The way I see it, he's right—the USWA *does* need some new blood. Can he help it if he's the guy who's draining it from all the pansies around here?"

The fans can't stand him. The wrestlers don't like him. And the officials just have to sit back and put up with him. Even magazine editors have little use for Brian Christopher—and we ought to know.

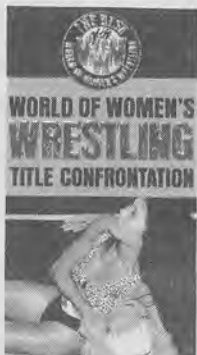
"So you're *finally* going to do an article on me in *Inside Wrestling*," Christopher said sarcastically when we informed him of our intentions. "Well, you better put me on the cover, too, or I'll come up to New York and kick *all* your butts!"

Some people just have a way with words. Christopher better hope his way doesn't someday land him big trouble—or the hospital. ☐

LPWA

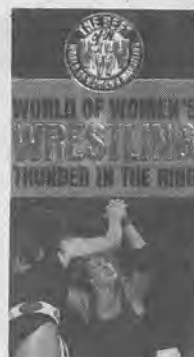
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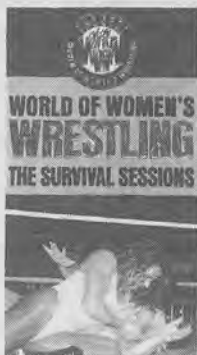
TITLE CONFRONTATION

Two of the world's most feared tag teams, locked in desperate combat, as Team America defends its world title against Bad, Black and Beautiful. Also the mysterious Eastern Star, Malia Hosaka, against Judy Martin. Great Action! 30 min.



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Non-stop action that makes the ring shake with thunder. The two Oriental stars Malia Hosaka vs. Lei Lani Kai. The Beast vs. young and inexperienced Kimmie Kozak. Terri Power vs. the exotic and deadly Mimil. 29 min.



THE SURVIVAL SESSIONS

WWW's greatest stars: Bambi vs. Magnificent Mimi. Terri Power vs. Lei Lani Kai. Superstar Susan Sexton vs. The Beast. Reggie Bennett vs. Judy Martin. 30 min.



BATTLE OF THE CHAMPIONS

Superstar Susan Sexton defends her title against former champ Lei Lani Kai. Team America vs. veteran Rustee "The Fox" Thomas and Babyface Nellie and Kimmie Kozak vs. Bad, Black and Beautiful. 30 min.



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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
(5) WWF World champion | 4— NIKITA KOLOFF
(-) No. 1 contender: U.S. title | 8— EDDIE GILBERT
(9) GWF N.American champion | 12— THE MOUNTIE
(-) No. 3 contender: WWF title |
| 2— BRET HART
(11) WWF I-C champion | 5— SHAWN MICHAELS
(15) No. 1 contender: I-C title | 9— RON HARRIS
(-) Pacific Northwest champion | 13— RICK STEAMBOAT
(6) No. 5 contender: WCW title |
| 3— RICK RUDE
(3) WCW U.S. champion | 6— BIG VAN VADER
(-) No. 3 contender: WCW title | 10— STEVE AUSTIN
(7) WCW TV champion | 14— TONY ATLAS
(-) IWCCW champion |
| | 7— TOM PRICHARD
(-) USWA Southern champion | 11— KAMALA
(10) USWA champion | 15— DAN DAVIS
(-) GWF light heavy champion |

WCW

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1— STING
(1) 260, Venice Beach, CA | 4— BIG VAN VADER
(6) 445, Denver, CO | 8— RON SIMMONS
(8) 260, Warner Robins, GA | 12— CACTUS JACK
(11) 304, Truth Or Cons., NM |
| 2— RICK RUDE
(2) 246, Robbinsdale, MN | 5— STEVE AUSTIN
(3) 241, Dallas, TX | 9— BARRY WINDHAM
(7) 263, Sweetwater, TX | 13— M.A. BAGWELL
(12) 240, Marietta, GA |
| 3— NIKITA KOLOFF
(-) 275, Lithuania | 6— RICK STEAMBOAT
(4) 238, Honolulu, HI | 10— JOHNNY B. BADD
(13) 235, Macon, GA | 14— VAN HAMMER
(-) 290, New York |
| | 7— DUSTIN RHODES
(10) 254, Austin, TX | 11— JUNKYARD DOG
(-) 302, Charlotte, NC | 15— RICHARD MORTON
(-) 228, Memphis, TN |

WWF

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
(3) 245, Sarasota, FL | 4— THE MOUNTIE
(-) 232, Montreal, Quebec | 8— SID JUSTICE
(6) 318, West Memphis, AR | 12— TATANKA
(11) 260, Miami, FL |
| 2— BRET HART
(4) 235, Calgary, Alberta | 5— DAVEY BOY SMITH
(-) 245, Leeds, England | 9— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(-) 275, Queens, NY | 13— BIG BOSSMAN
(14) 310, Cobb County, GA |
| 3— SHAWN MICHAELS
(8) 220, San Antonio, TX | 6— RIC FLAIR
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN | 10— VIRGIL
(15) 245, parts unknown | 14— TITO SANTANA
(9) 245, Toluca, Mexico |
| | 7— THE UNDERTAKER
(7) 320, Dallas, TX | 11— DINO BRAVO
(-) 256, Montreal, Quebec | 15— OWEN HART
(-) 223, Calgary, Alberta |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— STING
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 4— SCOTT STEINER
Last month: unrated | 8— EDDIE GILBERT
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular | 12— RICK STEAMBOAT
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 5— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 9— THE UNDERTAKER
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 13— DUSTIN RHODES
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular |
| 3— THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: unrated | 6— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 10— BRET HART
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 14— RICK STEINER
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular |
| | 7— RON SIMMONS
Last month: unrated | 11— NIKITA KOLOFF
Last month: unrated | 15— ERIC EMBRY
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1— BIG VAN VADER
Last month: unrated | 4— SID JUSTICE
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 8— BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated | 12— RON HARRIS
Last month: unrated |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 5— SHAWN MICHAELS
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 9— STEVE AUSTIN
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated | 13— TERRENCE TAYLOR
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated |
| 3— RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 6— CACTUS JACK
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 10— GARY YOUNG
Last month: unrated | 14— THE MOUNTIE
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated |
| | 7— PAPA SHANGO
Last month: unrated | 11— TONY ATLAS
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated | 15— RICK MARTEL
Last month: unrated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1— BOBBY EATON & ARN ANDERSON
(1) WCW World tag team champions | 6— THE MOONDOGS
(5) USWA tag team champions | 11— SCOTT PUTSKI & TERRY SIMMS
(8) No. 1 contenders: GWF tag title |
| 2— RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(3) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title | 7— TERRENCE TAYLOR & GREG VALENTINE
(6) WCW U.S. tag team champions | 12— THE NASTY BOYS
(13) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title |
| 3— IRWIN R. SCHYSTER & TED DIBIASE
(2) WWF World tag team champions | 8— THE FREEBIRDS
(-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title | 13— ROD PRICE & JOHN TATUM
(14) No. 2 contenders: Global tag title |
| 4— THE LEGION OF DOOM
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title | 9— JEFF JARRETT & JERRY LAWLER
(10) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title | 14— TOM ZENK & M.A. BAGWELL
(15) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag title |
| 5— HACKSAW DUGGAN & SGT. SLAUGHTER
(7) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title | 10— THE NATURAL DISASTERS
(4) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title | 15— GRAPPLER & STEVE DOLL
(-) Pacific Northwest tag team champions |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended April 24, 1992

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS

(July 26, 1991; from Billy Black & Joel Deaton; Chiba, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(January 28, 1992; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Chiba, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & AKIRA TAUE

(March 4, 1992; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(January 28, 1992; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Chiba, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: TAKAKO INOUE

(April 29, 1991; from Kyoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO

(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: BISON KIMURA

(October 26, 1991; from Suzuka Minami; Toyama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHYO YAMADA

(March 20, 1992; from Aja Kong & Bison Kimura; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-STAR CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JOHNNY MEADOWS

(October 5, 1991; from Jimmy Golden; Morristown, TN)

ALL-STAR CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF ANDERSON & PAUL RAY

(November 15, 1991; from Doug Vines & Jeff Sord; Caryville, TN)

AMERICAN WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: STAN LANE (by officials' decision)

AMERICAN WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SUNNY BEACH & JEFF GAYLORD (by officials' decision)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RAMBO

(July 6, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Graz, Austria)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION EUROPEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DAVID TAYLOR & CHRIS BENOIT

(December 21, 1991; from Franz Schuhmann & Miles Zmo; Bremen, Germany)

* EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JOHNNY HOT BODY

(April 26, 1992; from Jimmy Snuka; Philadelphia, PA)

* GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DANNY DAVIS

(April 3, 1992; from Barry Horowitz; Dallas, TX)

GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: EDDIE GILBERT

(March 27, 1992; from The Dark Patriot; Dallas, TX)

GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(Most recently held by Scott Putski & Terry Simms)

* GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: SAM HOUSTON

(April 3, 1992; battle royal victory; Dallas, TX)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(April 19, 1991; from Vic Steamboat; S. China, ME)

ICWA CHAMPION: DICK SLATER

(December 19, 1991; tournament final over Johnny Ace; Tampa, FL)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON

(by IWA officials' decision)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE THUNDERFOOTS

(July 14, 1991; from The Terminators; Sydney, Australia)

IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE

(July 14, 1991; from Jules Strongbow; Sydney, Australia)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI

(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI

(December 26, 1991; from The Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by The Billion Dollar Babies)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

(February 28, 1992; from Mondo Kleen; Orlando, FL)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEARTBREAKERS

(July 24, 1991; tournament final over Al Hardiman & The Caribbean Kid; Winter Haven, FL)

IWGP CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU

(January 4, 1992; from Tatsuji Fujinami; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BAM BAM BIGELOW & BIG VAN VADER

(March 1, 1992; from The Great Muta & Hiroshi Hase; Yokohama, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER

(February 8, 1992; from Norio Honaga; Sapporo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: TERRI POWER

(February 23, 1992; from Lady X; Rochester, MN)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI

(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: BRUNO BEKKAR

(December 12, 1987; from Johnny Garcia; Auckland, New Zealand)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL

(February 7, 1992; from Ron Harris; Eugene, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: COL. DeBEERS & JOHN RAMBO

(March 20, 1992; from Steve Doll & The Grappler; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(January 28, 1992; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Chiba, Japan)

PWF INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & AKIRA TAUE

(March 4, 1992; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: CHARLIE NORRIS

(November 17, 1991; from Teijho Khan; Minneapolis, MN)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD RHEINGANS & BARON VON RASCHKE

(January 25, 1992; from The Punishers; Annandale, MN)

* SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NEIL SUPERIOR

(April 12, 1992; from Helmut Hesler; Hagerstown, MD)

* SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RINGLODS

(April 18, 1992; from Tommy Gunn & Chazz Rocco; Arlington, SC)

* SUPER WORLD SPORTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: YOSHIAKI YATSU & HAKU

(April 18, 1992; from Earthquake & Typhoon; Tokyo, Japan)

USWA CHAMPION: KAMALA

(March 16, 1992; from Koko B. Ware; Memphis, TN)

* USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD

(April 20, 1992; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MOONDOGS

(November 30, 1991; from Robert Fuller & The Young Gun; Memphis, TN)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

(February 10, 1992; from Tom Prichard; Memphis, TN)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK

(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)

UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(last held by Pemo Aguayo & El Gran Hamada)

WCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRIAN PILLMAN

(February 29, 1992; from Justin Liger; Milwaukee, WI)

WCW TV CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN

(June 3, 1991; from Bobby Eaton; Birmingham, AL)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(November 19, 1991; from Sting; Savannah, GA)

WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GREG VALENTINE & TERRENCE TAYLOR

(February 17, 1992; from Big Josh & Ron Simmons; Rock Hill, SC)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: STING

(February 29, 1992; over Lex Luger; Milwaukee, WI)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY EATON & ARN ANDERSON

(January 16, 1992; from Dustin Rhodes & Rick Steamboat; Jacksonville, FL)

WWA WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: LEON SPINKS

(March 25, 1992; from Tarzan Goto; Tokyo, Japan)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(January 6, 1992; from Greg Valentine; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(last held by Ricky Santana & Ray Gonzalez)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(last held by Ray Gonzalez)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(last held by Hurricane Castillo Jr.)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEARTBREAKERS

(January 6, 1992; from Rex King & Ricky Santana; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC TV CHAMPION: DICK MURDOCH

(January 6, 1992; from Invader I; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWF UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(April 4, 1992; from Ron Garvin; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SASHA

(October 5, 1991; from Monster Ripper; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RODDY PIPER

(January 19, 1992; from The Mountie; Albany, NY)

WWF/SWS JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAOKI SANO

(December 12, 1991; tournament final over Rick Martel; Tokyo, Japan)

* WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE

(April 5, 1992; from Ric Flair; Indianapolis, IN)

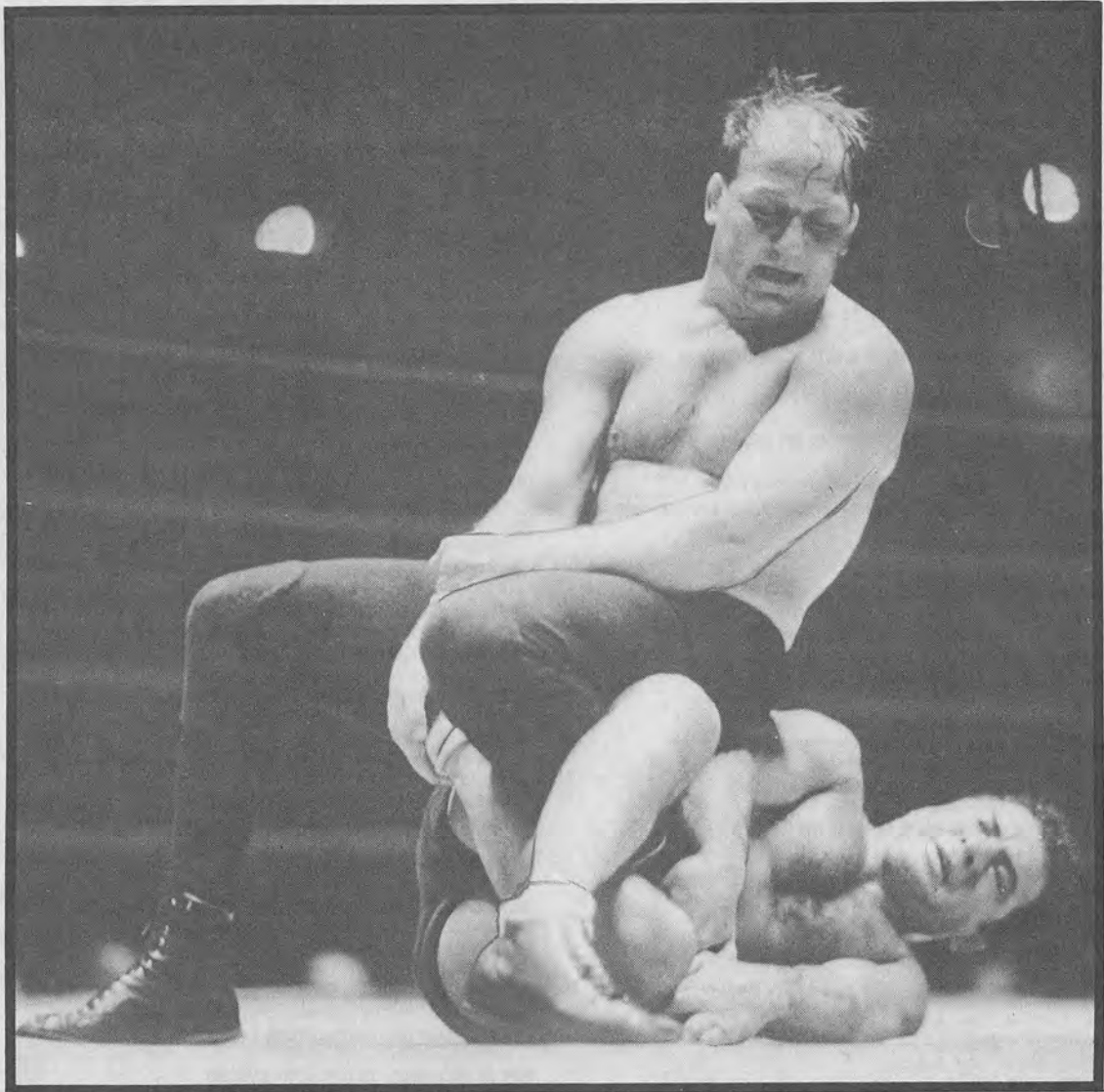
WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TED DIBASE & IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

(February 7, 1992; from The Legion of Doom; Denver, CO)

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—R.N., Pittsburgh

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